

A diary

24.9.74

THE MINISTER of Justice announced his intention to stop the Pro-Frelimo rally organised by the South African Students' Organisation (Saso) and the Black People's Convention (BPC), believing it would lead to race clashes with anti-Frelimo Whites.

25.9.74

POLICE with dogs scattered crowds at the rally at Durban's Curries Fountain and arrested many people. Police swooped on Saso offices and arrested six BPC and Saso leaders.

26.9.74

NINETEEN PEOPLE held by police in connection with the rally.

27.9.74

TWELVE BLACKS charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act. Six were granted bail and the case was adjourned until October 15.

30.9.74

BY THEN about 12 leaders of Saso and BPC had been arrested.

1.10.74

WHITE TRADE Unionist's son arrested under the Riotous Assemblies Act and allowed bail.

9.10.74

TWENTY-FIVE HAD been arrested during and after the rally — 13 under the Riotous Assemblies Act and allowed bail, 12 (from Saso and BPC) refused bail and held under the Terrorism Act.

31.10.74

AT LEAST 37 people held under the Terrorism Act since September 25.

7.11.74

NINE MEMBERS of Saso, BPC and the SA Council of Churches (SACC) arrested and held under the Terrorism Act.

7.11.74

FATHERS of four young men and fiancée of another sought court order restraining the Security Police from assaulting or unlawfully interrogating them.

12.11.74

APPLICATION for relief failed in court. The judge found the court could not make the necessary alternative order in terms of the Act. He found no evidence to warrant the granting of an interdict, nor was it reasonable to order the detainees themselves to be interviewed by a per-

son appointed by the court because Section 6 of the Act made it clear that the courts were precluded from being told what they said.

13.12.74

MR KRUGER, Minister of Justice, said the 38 detainees held under the Terrorism Act and Riotous Assemblies Act in September and October would be brought to trial within three weeks.

3.1.75

SEVERAL detainees had already been in prison for 100 days.

6.1.75

MRS SUZMAN attacked Mr Kruger over the delay.

8.1.75

THE STAFF of the Attorney General said to be working 12 hours a day trying to decide whether or not to proceed with criminal action.

12.1.75

WITS student detained.

1.2.75

THREE MORE detained.

12.1.75

TWELVE SASO and BPC detainees appeared in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court charged under Sec. 2 (1) (a) of the Terrorism Act. They were remanded until February 7. A request that they be kept in custody in the same cell was refused. Twenty-six Blacks were detained in September to give evidence.

8.2.75

TWELVE APPEARED in court and were remanded for summary trial on March 12.

8.2.75

TWO YOUNG MEN who went to court to witness the appearance of the detainees were detained by the Security Police.

19.2.75

ANOTHER Saso detainee appeared in court and was remanded for summary trial with the other 12 on March 12.

11.3.75

OVER FIVE MONTHS had elapsed since 38 were detained, and less than one third had been brought to trial.

11.3.75

MR KRUGER said in Parliament that he made no apology for Section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

12.3.75

THE CASE against the 13 began and was postponed for five weeks to enable the defence to prepare its case.

28.3.75

TWO DETAINEES who had been arrested in September, 1974, were released.

20.4.75

FORTY-TWO PEOPLE had been arrested since the pro-Frelimo rallies in September, 1974. Twenty-nine were still being held incommunicado and four had spent 203 days in prison. Eight had been released.

21.4.75

THE CASE was postponed until May 5 to enable the defence, which had been given further information by the State, to prepare its case. The police took the names and addresses of court spectators.

5.5.75

THE TRIAL re-opened. The defence requested further particulars from the State, and asked that the indictment be quashed if these were not available.

7.5.75

AFTER TWO DAYS of argument between defence and the State, judgment on application by the defence to compel the State to supply further particulars of charges was postponed for two weeks.

21.5.75

THE TRIAL was resumed.

6.6.75

MR KRUGER said in Parliament that 15 people were still being held — excluding the 13 on trial.

10.6.75

THE JUDGE adjourned the trial early, saying that he had "had enough for one day". He asked if it would not help the situation "if I throw the indictment out and give the State an opportunity to prepare a new one?"

17.6.75

UNIVERSITY of Natal lecturer detained.

18.6.75

TWO MORE people detained.

23.6.75

TWO DETAINEES freed and charges against them withdrawn. They had been in detention for nearly five months.

23.6.75

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY General stated his intention of separating two of the accused from the remaining 11 and trying them separately. He hoped to draw up a new indictment by the end of the week.

25.6.75

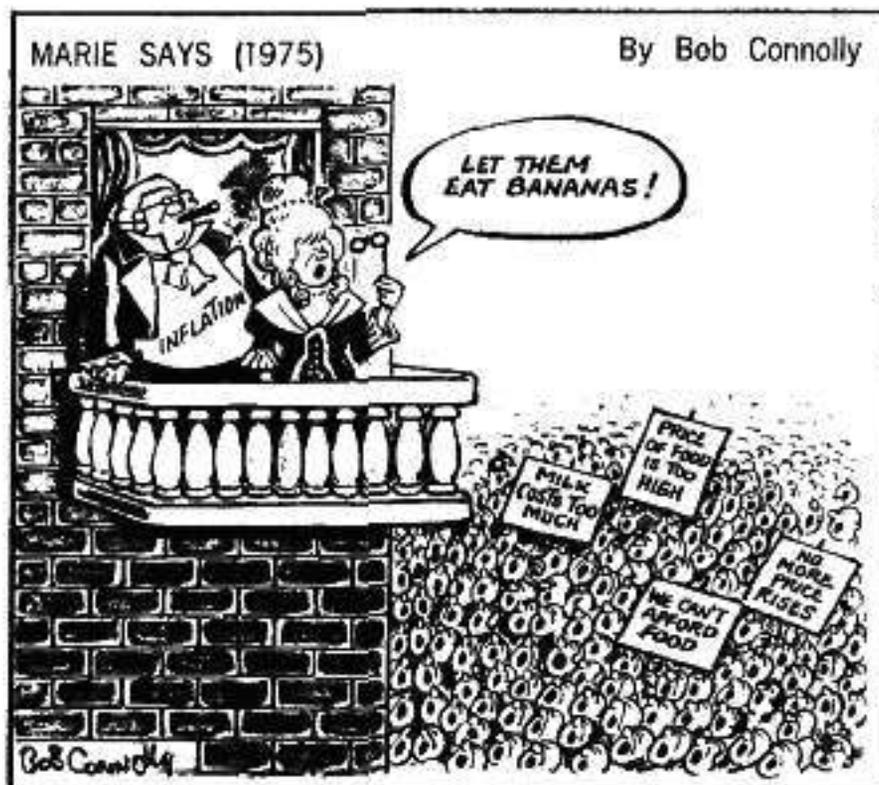
THREE DETAINEES were released without being charged. Two had been detained for more than seven months. One was told he would be subpoenaed to give evidence against the 11 accused, but said he would refuse.

27.6.75

AT LEAST 25 Blacks were still in indefinite detention under the Terrorism Act and related laws, and three Whites were being held under the Act.

27.6.75

THE DEPUTY Attorney General told the court he was withdrawing charges against all 13 detainees, but would be bringing joint charges against nine and individual charges against two. The new indictments were handed to the defence.



The Black Sash, August, 1975



Die Swart Serp, Augustus, 1975