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323

Ministers visit Soweto

JOHANNESBURG. — The Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr M C Botha, and two Cabinet colleagues slipped into riot-torn Soweto on an unannounced visit yesterday.

Mr Botha was accompanied by Dr A P Treurnicht, Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration and Education, and Mr Willem Cruywagen, Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration and Development.

It is believed that Mr

Botha's party visited trouble spots in last week's rioting to survey the damage and to confer with senior police officers and West Rand Board officials.

Meanwhile, with a police helicopter hovering overhead and escorted by police-laden armoured troop carriers, top Bantu Administration Board

officials and pressmen yesterday toured Pretoria's two main riot trouble-spot townships, Atteridgeville and Mamelodi.

The procession through the Pretoria townships took place in front of thousands of sullen Africans, and the visit to Atteridgeville was kept short as police reported fresh trouble

brewing.

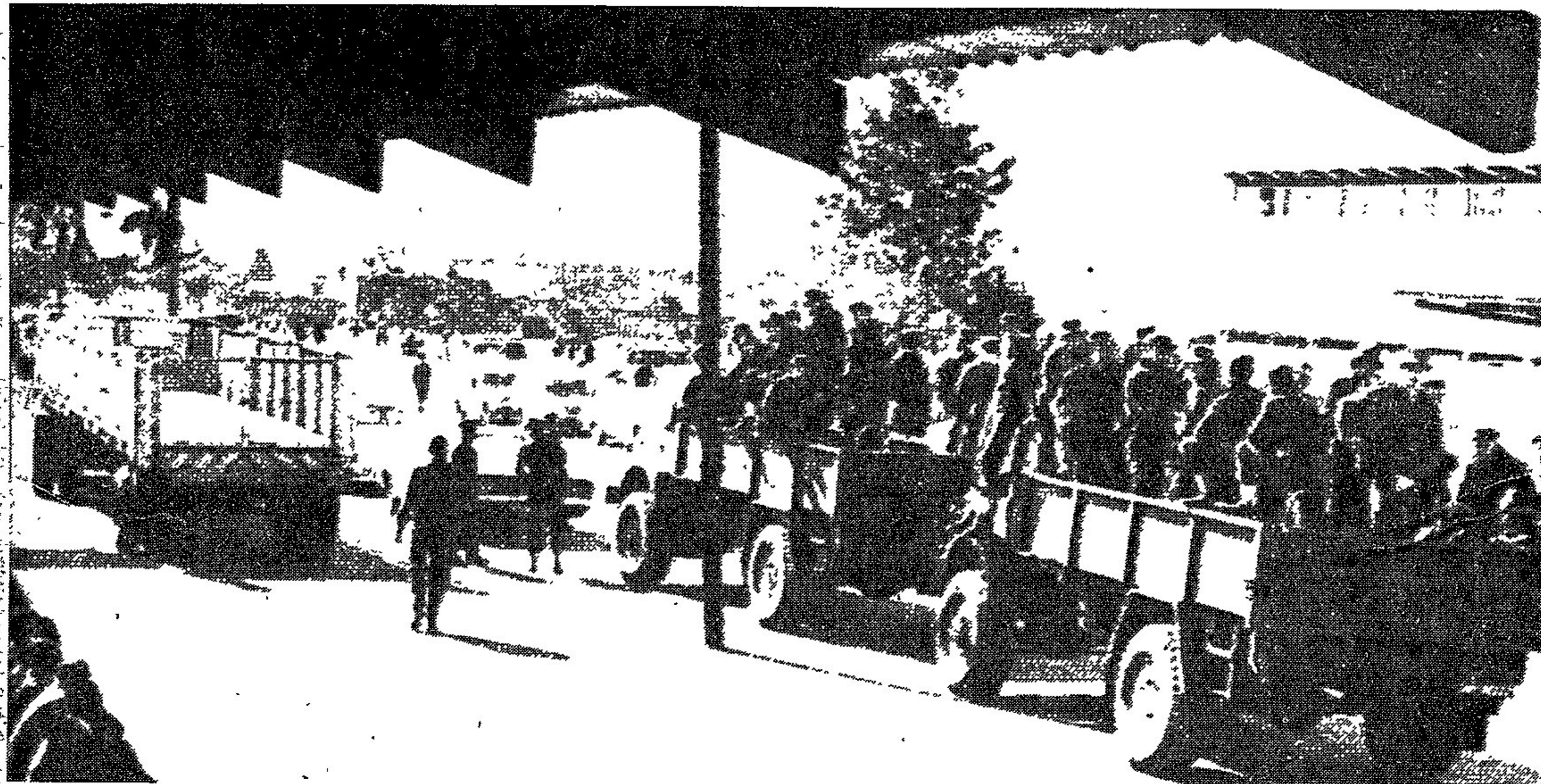
Roads strewn with cricket ball-sized rocks told of the extensive stonings which took place.

Everywhere there were truckloads of police on patrol, with the helicopter darting overhead and nosing into potential trouble spots.

Strategic points were under

the control of armed policemen, many of them taking a sleep dog-tired in blazing sunlight under heavy blankets while fellow police kept watch.

In an interview, the board's director, Mr C H Kotze, told the press: "It is impossible even to start to estimate the damage, except to say that I don't think it will be in the millions." — Own Correspondent and Sapa



Truckloads of armed police accompany Bantu Administration Board officials on a visit yesterday to two riot-damaged townships in the Pretoria area.