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## EDITORIALS

### 1.

## EDDIE DANIELS

On November 16th Eddie Daniels was released from Robben Island after serving every single day of the sentence which the Judge-President of the Cape Supreme Court in 1964 felt was a fitting punishment for the part he had played in the sabotage activities of the African Resistance Movement.

Some people thought the punishment was excessive. Not apparently our present Minister of Justice and his security police. Fifteen years on Robben Island was not enough for them, so they tacked on to the end of them their own administrative punishments, some cruel, some more so.

Eddie's family were first told that he would be released from the Robben Island jetty, but shortly before his release they were told that it would be from Pollsmoor Police Station. His brother and 86-year-old mother went there at 7 a.m. on the morning of the 16th, no doubt in a state of anticipation and excitement greater than anything they had ever experienced before. That was soon dashed. They were told he wasn't there. The security police had taken him to Caledon Square police station. They could collect him from there.

At Caledon Square Eddie was finally released to them carrying with him, amongst his other few possessions, a house-arrest order. This will, for the next five years, confine him to his brother's house from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and at week-ends and on public holidays. It will restrict him to the

magisterial district in which his brother's home is, prohibit him from visiting a large number of places within that district, prevent him from attending any "gathering" of any sort, and impose on him a host of other restrictions with which opponents of apartheid should by now be familiar.

Eddie Daniels has already served the full measure of the sentence the courts felt was appropriate to his offence. Now he must start to serve another sentence, and not for having done anything. For it is inconceivable that he would have been let off Robben Island if he had done anything before he left there, or that he had time to do anything between leaving there and having the banning order served on him.

Of course he didn't. His offence is that 15 years on Robben Island haven't persuaded him that any good will ever come out of apartheid. Nor, it seems, has a prison sentence for a political offence persuaded many others. How else can one explain the fact that almost every political offender, when released from gaol, suffers the iniquity of having a banning or house-arrest order placed on him? For what else is it but iniquitous that an administrative punishment of such viciousness should be imposed on people who have already paid, without a day's remission, the full debt which the courts felt they owed society.

Some people think the P. W. Botha government is something different from its predecessor. Deep down inside we're afraid it isn't. □