

V. STATEMENT BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

1. SOWETO YOUTH CONGRESS
2. FEDERATION OF TRANSVAAL WOMEN
3. EAST RAND PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION
4. SOWETO CIVIC ASSOCIATION
5. ALEXANDRA YOUTH CONGRESS
6. DENNILTON YOUTH CONGRESS

STATEMENT ON LE GRANGE'S BILL

As the government loses control daily, its attempts to retain power become increasingly desperate. The unprecedented state terror which our people experienced since July 21st last year is now to be institutionalised in the statute books as a permanent feature of Apartheid rule.

The proposed changes to the Public Safety Act gives the Minister of Law and Order, Louis Le Grange total powers to unleash these forces of terror when and where he deems necessary. It gives him the power to cordon off our townships from the outside world and deploy all those methods which he thinks necessary to cow our people into submission. The last 9 months have shown exactly what these "methods" are including the use of fascist vigilantes, the S.A.D.F. occupation forces curfews, mass detentions and attacks on and murder our leaders by "unknown" assailants.

The government is determined to pass the Public Safety Amendment Bill before June 16 through the Presidents Council, no matter how embarrassing this may be. The regime doesn't want the political and economic consequences of a formal state of emergency. At the same time, Le Grange's Bill is far more serious than the declaration of a state of emergency last year for a limited time and limited areas. Le Grange's Bill is tantamount to a permanent State of Emergency which applies to any area which opposes the regime at any point.

The threat of unrest, let alone actual unrest, is enough for Le Grange to justify using these powers. Le Grange's Bill will entrench the concentration of powers in the hands of the SAP and in particular the SADF. As such it brings South Africa one step closer to martial law.

This measure is no solution to South Africa's problems. It can only intensify the war raging in our country at the moment. This is a war between the forces of progress and democracy, and the forces of reaction and barbarism. We call on all freedom and peace loving people in South Africa and throughout the world to put a stop to this Bill before it is too late. Let everyone adopt the slogan **STOP LE GRANGE'S LAW ; NO TO A PERMANENT EMERGENCY !** and back this up with united action. Let us support the National Day of Action on June 9th