

UDF Trial Could Last Two Years

[AN] The treason trial of 16 leading opponents of the South African government has opened with a defense motion for dismissal of the three-volume, 587-page indictment.

Arguments for and against the motion were heard on Aug. 5, five days after the murder of one of the defense attorneys, Victoria Mxenge, who was shot by four hooded persons outside her home in the Durban township of Umlazi. Mxenge's husband, Griffiths, also a lawyer specializing in human rights and political cases, was brutally murdered in Durban in 1981.

The trial is taking place in Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal Province, which also includes Durban.

Unless the judge agrees to the dismissal motion when the trial resumes next month, the case is expected to last as long as two years, effectively removing the defendants from the center of politi-

cal action until a verdict is rendered. They could face the death sentence if convicted.

The 16 are charged with high treason for acts over the past four years that allegedly furthered the aims of two outlawed organizations—the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party. Together with the South African Congress of Trade Unions, these two groups are said to have formed a “revolutionary alliance” to overthrow the government.

The 16 are all active in the United Democratic Front, although the indictment mentions only the accused's involvements with four UDF affiliates—the South African Allied Workers' Union, the Natal and Indian Congresses, and the Release Mandela Committee. Those facing charges include the UDF's two co-presidents, Archie Gumede, 72, and Albertina Sisulu, 62, whose husband Walter was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment

CONTENTS

SOUTH AFRICA: Botha's Warning	3
GHANA: The Politics of 'Recovery'	5
CIA Case Annoys Ghanaians	7
WESTERN SAHARA: 'Great Wall' Nearly Complete	8
UGANDA: Anxiety Grips the Nation	10
TANZANIA: CCM Taps Nyerere Successor	11
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Kolingba's Uncertain Agenda	13
SIERRA LEONE: Stevens To Retire	14



Economic recovery has posed a political as well as fiscal challenge for Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings. See page 5