

RAND DAILY MAIL Oct. 28th 1971

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## INNOCENTS IN JAIL

**O**UR CRITICISM of the Security Branch this week evoked a predictable response from Die Vaderland, a paper so well trained in servility to the machinery of high-handed government that it automatically assumes the role of apologist. The newspaper suggested we should remember Rivonia, and refrain from criticising until the results of this week's jackboot-type raids become apparent. We do remember Rivonia, and a fine piece of police work it was. But that fails to make us starry-eyed about secret police nor more inclined to grant them absolute licence. Secret policemen grow arrogant with success and power.

We had a reminder of that this week. A brother and sister, who have apparently committed no offence whatsoever, were released after more than nine months of imprisonment beyond reach of lawyers and relatives. The only explanation is the one given some months ago by the chief of the Security Police who, off-handedly, said they might be needed as witnesses. Well, they were not, and they are free now only by grace of the Security Branch, which could have held them forever if it wished. As long as policemen are free to act this way — and do — we will do our duty and oppose their actions vigorously. And timeously.