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3 HOUSE ARREST ORDERS LIFTED

By MARGARET SMITH

THE HOUSE ARREST orders on two Johannesburg men, Mr Eli Weinberg, 67, and Mr Ivan Schermbrucker, 54, and a Durban woman, Mrs Jeanette Murphy, were lifted this week by the Minister of Justice, Mr Jimmy Kruger.

Both men served five years in jail after convictions under the Suppression of Communism Act, in the "original" Fischer trial. On their release in 1970, both men were served with five-year banning and house arrest orders.

The orders expired this week and the house arrest orders were not reimposed.

Mr Schermbrucker's banning orders were renewed.

Mrs Jeanette Murphy 21, formerly Jeanette Cunningham-Brown, began planning a party on learning from the Security Police that her five-year banning and house arrest orders had been lifted.

At first she was confined to her parents' home in Maritzburg. After her marriage to a trade unionist, Mike Murphy, she was confined to their home in Durban.

She was also deprived of her job as a trade union worker, banned from all gatherings, social and otherwise.

Yesterday, Mrs Murphy, the mother of a baby girl, said: "Now I will find out what it means to live again. My new freedom is quite

daunting. It is 15 months since I have mixed with people, apart from my family."

When the orders, under the Suppression of Communism Act, were made against her, three other young White Durban trade unionists were banned and house arrested. They were David Hemson, David Davis and Halton Cheadle, all former students of Natal University.

Mrs Murphy said: "All four of us were engaged in trying to get better pay deals for Black workers, and in bringing them into the trade union movement. Our activities were similar and I don't know why my bans have been lifted and not theirs. I feel desperately sorry for them and for all other people under house arrest."

Handicapped

"Human-beings are social creatures and it is mental torture to be completely isolated from meaningful human contact."

When she was banned and put under house arrest she worked for a time in an art gallery because the restrictions imposed by the orders were so wide that they limited her choice of jobs.

She married Mr Murphy, an honours graduate from Natal University, three days after the orders were imposed.

The lifting of the ban, she said, released her from "a half life."

Mr Weinberg applied to the Minister for a relaxation of his bans because they severely handicapped him in his work as a professional photographer. He was served this week with a ban that prohibits him only from attending gatherings.

He is now able to leave the magisterial district of Johannesburg — which he has not been able to do for 15 years.

Yesterday his daughter, Sheila, said that the fact that her father could now leave the house in the evenings and at the weekends was important to his work.

He was not anticipating anything immediately...



Mrs Jeanette Murphy, 21, with her daughter, Sarah, after hearing that her banning and house arrest orders had been lifted . . . she's already planning a party.

leader of the banned South African Communist Party, Bram Fischer, when he was in hiding. On their release from jail they, too, were served with banning and house-arrest orders. The house-arrest orders were not renewed when they expired, but the banning orders remain.

● Mr Kruger said yesterday that the relaxation of the house arrest orders showed that the Government reviewed restrictions from time to time and eased them when necessary.



Mr Eli Weinberg . . . free again.

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Yesterday his daughter, Sheila, said that the fact that her father could now leave the house in the evenings and at the weekends was important to his work.

He was not anticipating anything immediately as his wife, Violet, was confined to the Johannesburg magisterial area by her banning order.

Both Mrs Weinberg and Mr Schermbrucker's wife, Lesley, have served sentences for helping the former



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