

*"STAR" FEB. 75*

# I've had the Fischer clan, says Kruger

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CAPE TOWN. — The Minister of Justice, Mr Jimmy Kruger, made it clear yesterday that he would have no further dealings with the family of Bram Fischer, the imprisoned former Communist Party leader.

"I am not going to deal with the Fischer family any more. I have had them. It is my view that they are not serious about getting his release," said Mr Kruger.

In an interview Mr Kruger said that at this stage Fischer would be kept in the H. F. Verwoerd Hospital because he was undergoing a course of therapy for his cancer and it had not been completed.

The latest medical reports indicated that doctors were not yet quite certain of the source of the primary cancer.

"I may, out of my own consideration, release him at a later stage," the Minister said.

Mr Kruger made it clear he was not to allow Fischer to become a "rallying point" for old Communist Party members.

He had received a letter from Fischer's son-in-law, Dr Tim Wilson, and it was clear from the letter that Dr Wilson felt that any undertak-

ing given by the family would amount to bargaining. "Of course it is not bargaining," said Mr Kruger. "I have a responsibility to the people of South Africa and the country."

He said that previously he had required a fixed undertaking from Fischer and his children over the conditions of his release but "now I am not interested any more".

It was quite clear to him, he said, that they were not prepared to give an undertaking and under the circumstances he would no longer be prepared to consider their appeals.

He said he had noticed that at the same time as Dr Wilson released his letter to the Press, the Human Rights Committee had organised a public demonstration in favour of the release. This had been banned.

He also noticed that among the speakers would have been Mrs Helen Joseph, a former banned, but now listed person and a former member of the Congress of Democrats.

He remembered that his predecessor had been the subject of a campaign to have her released from her banning because she was suffering from cancer.

"She was later released on humanitarian grounds and we find today that she is back on the public platform.

"Apparently her cancer has healed," said Mr Kruger.

*The "Star" 25/2/75*

# Bram Fischer has an operation

Bram Fischer, the convicted communist, had an operation today to determine the site of his primary cancer, a member of his family said.

Dr Tim Wilson, Fischer's son-in-law, said earlier the operation would be a minor biopsy to locate the site of the cancer which has spread to the hip, brain and spine.

Fischer finished a course of radio therapy yesterday and the next

course will start in about two weeks' time.

This is why Dr Wilson wrote to the Minister of Justice, Mr J Kruger on Sunday, asking him to release Fischer for two weeks.

The family want to have him at home where they can nurse him before the next radio therapy treatment starts.

Yesterday, the second mass rally calling for the release of Fischer was banned by the Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg.