

Winnie Mandela leads new protest

"RDM" 6/10/1975

STAFF REPORTER

MRS WINNIE MANDELA, the wife of Nelson Mandela, embraced old friends and sang Nkosi Sikele Afrika after a public speech which ended "13 years of mute resistance" in Noordgesig yesterday.

Mrs Mandela, 41, told over 200 people at a meeting of Cord (Charge or Release Detainees) that many people had to regard themselves as "potential detainees" under "one of the most vicious pieces of legislation on the statute book" — the Terrorism Act.

Banned since 1963, Mrs Mandela has spent 13 years in restriction and 17 months of that time in jail. She was joined on the platform by the Dean of Johannesburg, Rev Desmond Tutu, and Mr Albie Pop.

She said that the people of Mozambique, who were free to determine their own destiny after 500 years, brought hope to South Africa.

Prayers

Detente was designed to create the illusion that the people were being moved towards freedom.

She had heard what being detained under the Act meant. "Yet the actual experience remains petrifying," she said.

Informers were installed in the schools of the children, among friends and colleagues. Employers were interrogated as to why they employed you.

"And the only question you ask is whether you will collaborate or continue to fight for whatever cause you believe in."

The Dean of Johannesburg asked the multiracial audience to recite the Lord's Prayer in their home language, and the audience prayed in Zulu, Sotho, Xhosa, Afrikaans and English.

Mr Tutu then said that Christian reconciliation could only happen between those who were free to choose to be reconciled. "I will not accept cheap reconciliation. We must not cry peace when there is no peace," he said.



• Winnie Mandela protesting in Noordgesig yesterday.