

## **STATEMENT ON MR. T. MAKAE AND J. TLELIMA**

20 November 1979

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1979, the Supreme Court of the Orange Free State upheld the appeal against the conviction and sentence of two Young Christian Worker aspirants. The two, Petrus Makae and Jacob Tlelima, from Kroonstad, were first held in June 1978 and have already spent some months in Robben Island Security Prison.

Their original sentence of five years imprisonment under the Terrorism Act had been passed at Kroonstad Regional Court in February, 1979, and has now been set aside by Mr. Justice M. T. Steyn, former Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia, and Mr. Justice H. C. J. Flemming.

Archbishop J. P. Fitzgerald, President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, with Bishop J. L. Brenninkmeijr, Bishop of Kroonstad, express their deep felt joy with the way in which justice has been upheld in regard to these two young men and in respect of the National Movement of Young Christian Workers.

They said: "We rejoice with the both of them and with their families and we hope the movement will meet no further harassment and will be free in its Evangelical witness among a significant portion of God's people, ie. Workers."

Bishop H. Bucher, Chairman of the Dept. for Youth Ministry in the SACBC, adds: "The successful appeal is a vindication of our belief, expressed at the time when harassment of the YCW began in May 1978, that these young men have been taught nothing else by the YCW than to stand up for the rights of workers in our country."