

EXILED SOUTH AFRICAN ALLOWED TO SEEK ASYLUM

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Body

Dennis Brutus, the **exiled South African** poet and scholar who has been ruled "deportable" because of an expired visa, received a temporary reprieve today.

A United States immigration judge, Irving Schwartz, gave him 20 days to **seek** political **asylum** in this country. The petition will be submitted to the State Department for advice, a process that generally takes at least 30 days.

Dennis Brutus, **exiled South African** poet, is permitted to **seek** political **asylum** in US

When the State Department advisory opinion is returned to Judge Schwartz, a hearing will take up whether Professor Brutus will be granted **asylum**, have his visa extended, leave the country voluntarily or be deported. In addition, according to Robert Vinikoor, a lawyer for the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, "It should be stated on record where Brutus should be sent," in the event of deportation.

Professor Brutus's attorney, H. Nasif Mahmoud, had asked that his home be defined by the court as **South** Africa. But, Mr. Vinikoor said, "We do not intend to designate **South** Africa, but rather Zimbabwe, the country of his birth, from which he holds a passport."

Mr. Mahmoud asserted that his client's life would be in danger in Zimbabwe. He said that terrorists employed by **South** Africa are at work there; he cited the murder of a **South African** nationalist, Joe Gqabi, in July 1981.

In the meantime, Mr. Brutus, a senior professor of **African** literature in the Northwestern University English department, is free to return to Amherst College, where he is spending a sabbatical year as a visiting writer.

In the 20-minute hearing, much time was spent in argument on the professor's sojourn at Amherst while claiming residency at Northwestern. Judge Schwartz repeatedly demanded to know why no mention of the sabbatical had been made at a hearing in November.

In tones of exasperation, the judge read from the November transcript. But his expression changed as Mr. Mahmoud said that a passage marked "unintelligible" referred to Amherst College. The Judge smiled, and said, "I take it back."

Mr. Mahmoud called the hearing "a victory in that Dennis didn't get thrown out, but it's a short-lived victory be-

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