

The following Bill, which will in due course be presented to Parliament for enactment, is published for general information.

## SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to preclude the holding of meetings when Parliament is in session so that there shall be no likelihood of unwarranted disturbance in the neighbourhood.

Any meeting of more than fifty persons not otherwise authorised shall be deemed to be seditious in intent and the instigators and certain others will be liable to the punishment prescribed.

*Clause 2* seeks to make provision for certain meetings to be treated as seditious while *clause 3* prescribes penalties.

T. O. ELIAS,

*Attorney-General and Minister of Justice*

## SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS

### ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

#### *Clause*

1. Short title, etc.
2. Meetings deemed to be seditious.
3. Penalty for convening, etc., seditious meetings.

(Bills 736)

## A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN MEETINGS IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY  
DURING SITTING DAYS OF EITHER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

[

Commence-  
ment.

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the Federation of Nigeria  
in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as  
follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the Seditious Meetings Act, 1961, and  
5 shall apply to the Federal territory.

Short title,  
etc.

2. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no meeting of more  
than fifty persons shall be convened or held within a radius of one mile  
of either House of Parliament during any sitting day ; and any meeting  
convened or held contrary to the provisions of this subsection, shall be  
10 deemed to be a seditious meeting.

Meetings to  
be deemed  
seditious.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any  
meeting convened or held,—

(a) for the transaction of the business of Parliament ; or

(b) for any religious, charitable or scientific purpose ; or

15 (c) for any other purpose with the consent of the Prime  
Minister given on such terms as he may think fit.

3. (1) Every person who convenes, gives notice of or attends any  
meeting prohibited by this Act, or as owner or occupier of any premises  
consents by any means to the use of the premises for the purposes  
of such a meeting, shall be guilty of an offence and be liable on summary  
conviction to a fine of not less than fifty pounds or to imprisonment  
20 for a term of not less than six months or to both.

Penalty for  
convening,  
etc., sedi-  
tious  
meetings.

(2) No proceedings under this section shall be instituted or com-  
menced without the consent in writing of the Law Officers.