

## DETAINEES'S DEATH

# Silence in the face of evil

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## must end

WERE I better able to share the grief of the Timol family I would, as a Christian, do so, as, I feel sure, would all right-thinking people.

It is of little consolation to the parents of Ahmed Timol, but they must know that if the death of their son has helped in any way to alleviate the plight of his people in this land then he did not die in vain.

I did not know Ahmed Timol, but as a mark of the compassion I feel I protest, with all the strength I can muster, at his detention and the curious manner of his death while he was being held by the Security Police.

For too long I, with thousands of my fellow countrymen, have remained silent in the face of tyranny. I shall do so no longer indeed I dare not, for by my silence I continue to associate myself with the evil of which the death of Ahmed Timol is a manifestation.

In common with most White South Africans, my security has not until now been threatened. But it is fool-hardy to believe that the race politics which so adversely affect the lives of all non-Whites and which cause untold misery to millions of them, can continue in their inhumanity and not touch me directly.

Fearful of the consequences which will inevitably follow my continued silence, I demand that a judicial inquiry be appointed to investigate the conditions under which all detainees are held and interrogated. I cannot accept that another detainee has died and that no blame attaches to the Security Police.

The Prime Minister has spoken recently of "a tiger being saddled." It is uncanny that he should have chosen this metaphor, for, if we are threatened

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### LETTERS

### TO THE

### EDITOR

by a tiger, the threat lies in the concept and practice of apartheid.

Even more so the threat lies in the actions of a band of men in whose power it rests to secret people away at will.

A great statesman of another age and country also once referred metaphorically to the tiger. He reminded the threatened that it was stupidity to believe that if they gently stroked the tiger, the tiger would eat them last. The lesson is there for all White South Africans heed.

Kensington.

T. R. Scott

# MYSTERY OF RAIDED MAN IN HOSPITAL

STAFF REPORTERS

ONE OF THE Indian detainees, Mr. Mohammed Essop, 21, held during the weekend Security Police swoop, is lying ill in Pretoria's H. F. Verwoerd Hospital, according

to his mother.

Neither Mrs. Essop, nor the hospital, nor the Security Police would say yesterday what Mr. Essop's illness is or how it arose.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. Essop, rushed to Pretoria from their Rodepoort home yesterday after hearing reports that their son was either ill or dead.

The head of the Johannesburg Security Police, Colonel Piet Greyling, said yesterday he was not prepared to give information over the telephone. He did not have time to see reporters yesterday.

"He is not dangerously ill," the colonel said when pressed about the reports of Mr. Essop's condition.

The Deputy Commissioner of Prisons, Major General C. J. B. Brink, said he knew nothing about the matter. "This is the first I have heard of it," he added.

On returning from the hospital, Mrs. Essop said she and her husband had seen their son for about five minutes from outside a ward. Plain-clothed policemen had been with him all the time.

"He is very seriously ill," she said.

She added that her son had been "unconscious" and that his breathing seemed "very slow".

A staff nurse at the hospital's Cassim Adam ward said earlier that Mr. Essop was "still ill".

Earlier in the day hospital officials denied any knowledge of his presence in the hospital.

### 'CAN'T SAY'

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Peiser, said last night that he was unable to say what had happened to Mr. Essop, a second-year medical student at the University of the Witwatersrand.

"Within a few days' time they (the police) will send me a report saying they have taken so-and-so and so-and-so and giving me the reasons why they have been taken," Mr. Peiser said.

Last night, Mr. Glen Moss, vice-president of the Witwatersrand Students' Representative Council, said student leaders were discussing the possibility of applying for a habeas corpus writ in the matter.

Mr. Essop was last seen by his parents when he left home on Saturday evening.

Their Small Street, Rodepoort, home was raided by Security policemen early on Sunday morning.

Last night, Mr. Essop's brother, a salesman, said Mohammed was in perfect health at the time he was taken away by the Security Police.

A sister of Mr. Essop was also detained by the Security Police at the weekend.

● Cape Town and Witwatersrand University students, and Durban students plan separate protest meetings on the weekend detentions.