

Be frank, says Nat Press

TWO Johannesburg Nationalist newspapers have expressed concern at the official reaction to the death of the Indian detainee, Mr Ahmed Timol.

An editorial in Rapport says raids such as those which took place last week encouraged rumours and fears among a public which was — through the facts of our life — disposed to disquiet.

Apart from other considerations the authorities could in

this instance have limited the political damage, here and overseas, by being as frank as possible with the public. This limits not only the results of damaging rumours and whipped-up emotions, but serves also as a corrective for possible misuse of authority, the editorial stated.

Referring specifically to Mr Timol's death fall from John Vorster Square, Rapport asks: "How do the Security Police guard their captives if the seventh (or, according to another count, the 10th) now commits suicide in captivity? And is it really not possible to practise a form of continuous judicial supervision over the application of these extraordinary powers of the State?"

Rapport also asked why there was a silence at first over the death of Mr Timol. In the least this created an impression of callousness.

ANNOUNCE

The best thing would have been to announce immediately, and with regret, that a detainee had died, and to give an assurance that a full and open judicial inquiry would take place as soon as possible.

Rapport urged a "new approach of open cards" with the public to lessen the effects of a damaging dispute over a necessary service.

The political columnist, Neels Nette, said in the Transvaler the authorities had a duty to see that when circumstances were such that information could be released immediately there should be no question of a confusing delay.

If information about the suicide of Mr Timol had been released on Wednesday night, the result of the "adverse propaganda" would at least have been halved.

TIMOL, NOT ASSAULTED — GEN BUYS

AHMED TIMOL was not assaulted before his 10-storey plunge to death last Wednesday, Major General C. A. Buys, head of CID, was quoted as saying at the weekend.

According to a report in the Nationalist Sunday newspaper, Rapport, General Buys said the atmosphere is the 10th

floor office of John Vorster Square was the "most relaxed atmosphere imaginable in such circumstances."

"Ahmed Timol was sitting calmly on a chair. Security policemen were with him. Two of them walked out of the room at one stage.

"Timol then flew up suddenly and aimed for the door. One security policeman jumped up and ran to the door to thwart him. But the Indian then stormed to the window and jumped through it.

"Nobody frightened him or touched him. The post mortem will show this."

DETENTION LAW 'EVIL', SAYS PROG

DR BRUCKNER DE VILLIERS, Transvaal regional director of the Progressive Party, yesterday attacked the unlimited powers of the police and criticised the "odd and highly irregular goings-on behind the cell doors of the Security Police."

He called for all legislation for the detention of people without trial to be scratched from the statute book and demanded a complete revision of all laws affecting the rights of the individual.

Dr de Villiers, formerly liaison officer of the Christian Institute, was addressing a meeting in Pietersburg.

He pointed out the government's reluctance to institute judicial inquiries, and said if the extremely delicate task of preserving harmony was left in the hands of a "faceless, and often incompetent, organ-

sation, only havoc could be expected."

Dr de Villiers severely criticised government injustice.

"A law in which justice is not truly inherent is the law of the devil."

"The time has come for all responsible citizens to devise a new pattern of harmonious co-existence, free of the blight of apartheid."

"A completely positive re-thinking of our common situation has become urgently necessary and imperative."

He said the evil had to be eradicated and destroyed.