

RASS DAILY MAIL. Nov. 2, 1971

## GENERAL AT RISK

MAJOR-GENERAL C. A. BUYS, chief of the nation's CID, who is investigating the death last week of Mr. Ahmed Timol, says Mr. Timol, who was sitting calmly in a Security Police office, suddenly jumped to his feet and attempted an escape through a door. When a policeman barred his way he turned and leaped through a window to his death. General Buys added: "No one frightened him or touched him. The post-mortem will show that."

When this newspaper asked for more information General Buys retorted angrily: "Why don't you approach me first instead of going off at a tangent and blackening everybody? You have done your damndest and already thrown dirt."

These intemperate accusations suggest that he has already found everyone except this newspaper blameless. It is difficult to understand how such a highly experienced police officer should be able to reach any conclusion before he has gathered all the evidence. The post-mortem on Mr. Timol was held last week and it will be some time before the findings are known. Yet General Buys makes categorical statements of fact about Mr. Timol's condition before the fall.

Having expressed himself so forcibly, General Buys now runs the risk of being accused of lacking objectivity in this investigation. We believe the public interest would be better served if he adopted the policeman's first principles and gathered all the facts before hazarding his views about the Timol case and this newspaper.

Meanwhile, we will keep on trying to inform the public.