

STAR Nov. 2nd

Page 2

51

under airport by-laws.

Flayer and vengeance

Pressure grows on Terror Act

(From Page 1)

tion in deciding under which laws suspects should be detained.

The United Party's shadow Minister of Justice, Mr Mike Mitchell, has already called for the revision of the Act's detention-without-trial provisions and it is certain that the Act and the actions of the Security Police will be one of the major issues raised in next year's no-confidence debate in Parliament.

The issue has been harshly spotlighted by last month's widespread Security Police raids, by the death of the detainee, Mr Ahmed Timol, and by the trial of the dean.

Two major issues are involved:

● The growing Opposition demand for a judicial inquiry into the treatment of detainees who are held under different detention-without-trial provisions. This has already been rejected by the Prime Minister.

● The fact that the police have used the extremely tough Terrorism Act to cope with situations which, critics believe, could effectively have been disposed of in terms of the powers conferred on them by the Suppression of Communism Act or the Sabotage Act.

While Mr Mitchell has claimed vigorously that the Government has abdicated its responsibilities to the public and to democracy in favour of the Security Police, Mr John Dugard, professor of law at the University of the Witwatersrand, yesterday said the Terrorism Act had become a "monster in South African society."

At the same time, the whole situation has sparked off considerable — and highly critical — overseas reaction.

It is unlikely, however, that the Government will soften its position or that it will instruct the police to use the Terrorism Act less frequently.

★ A fund has been launched in Australia to help meet the legal costs of the Dean of Johannesburg, reports SAPA-Reuters. In Sydney today the Senior Assistant Bishop of the Sydney diocese, the Right Rev Hugh Morr, said it was right that Anglicans in Australia should be given the chance to contribute to the dean's legal costs.

Judgment and sentence on the dean, which was reported in late editions of The Star yesterday, is on Page 25.