

4th November, 1971.



MICHAEL GRIMLEY

Artist held for 7 hours

Staff Reporter

A 26-YEAR-OLD freelance artist was held for seven hours by Johannesburg Security Police yesterday after he had visited a Pritchard Street photographic studio belonging to friends.

Mr. Michael Grimley, of Sandringham Court, Ohliva Street, Berea, last night told the Rand Daily Mail that police officers who were waiting inside the studio took him away after questioning him briefly.

It is believed that another two people were held in yesterday's daylight raids. One of those thought to be in detention is Mr. Quentin Jacobson, who shared the studio with his brother, Henry, and two other friends.

Mr. Grimley said the police told him they were looking for the Jacobson brothers, whom they said were involved in "politics" and who may be able to help them with inquiries into drug trafficking. While he was at the studio, another friend, Mr. "Bugie" Monamudi, and his girlfriend arrived there and were also taken to John Vorster Square. At John Vorster Square all three were taken to the ninth

TO PAGE 2

Police hold 3

FROM PAGE 1

floor, where they were separated. Mr. Grimley said he believed Mr. Monamudi was still being held late last night.

Police took Mr. Grimley's address book from him and questioned him on his relationship with the people whose names were listed in it, and also the Jacobson brothers.

He was asked what the Jacobsons' politics were, and what his were.

Mr. Grimley said no violence was used on him, but he was warned that if he did not talk he would be locked up and be "in very hot water".

He then gave the police a statement about his background, his reason for visiting the Jacobsons' studio, his activities, his friends, and his political views.

"I told them I was conservative because I am against totalitarianism and that I am sympathetic to the Black people."

About 6.30 pm Mr. Grimley was taken by police to his Berea flat, which they searched for an hour. The police showed great interest in a pile of Rand Daily Mails and in some Russian-pressed records he had bought in London, including one by Shostakovich.

They asked him if he had ever visited China or Russia — and took away his British passport which they refused to return to him. While police were searching the flat another artist friend, Mr. David Epstein, arrived, and was warned with arrest by the police although he was later allowed to go.

Before leaving, the police took an imprint of his typewriter face, a handwriting sample and photographs.

After leaving the flat, Mr. Grimley was ordered to show police the way to the home of another friend, Miss Sharon Phrus.

Back at John Vorster Square, Mr. Grimley was questioned further about his political beliefs, and, in particular about the whereabouts of Mr. Ian Margo, a student who was searched by police some weeks ago. He was also asked whether he knew Mr. Ahmed Timol, the detainee who died in a 10-floor fall from John Vorster Square.

Before he was released at 9.30 pm, he saw police taking Mr. Monamudi and his girlfriend to Soweto to search his home.

Last night Mr. Grimley, who is an ex-UNISA and Johannesburg Art School student, and who worked for the defunct magazine News Check, said he was mystified and shocked by his detention.

"I have never been politically involved, and I have nothing to hide," he said.

He visited the Jacobsons to try to arrange transport for an African musician, Phillip Tobana, to play in a concert at Witwatersrand University.

Last night senior Security Police officers refused to deny or confirm that Mr. Grimley, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Monamudi or Mr. Monamudi's girlfriend had been detained. They would also not say if any of them had been released.