

JOHANNESBURG, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1971.

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MASS MEETING ATTACKS POLICE RAIDS

'Aim is to keep SA tense'

STAFF REPORTERS

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The South African Institute of Race Relations yesterday added to the public demands with its own request that the Government appoint a judicial commission of inquiry to investigate the interrogation methods used by the Security Police.

The institute also demanded an investigation into the circumstances leading to the deaths of 17 people while in detention, and the repeal of the Terrorism Act.

Among those on the speaker's platform at yesterday's protest meeting at Wits were Mr. John Rees, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Rabbi Arthur Super, Chief Minister of the Reformed Congregation and the Rt. Rev. John Carter, Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Johannesburg.

Mrs. Helen Suzman, Progressive Party MP for Houghton, told the meeting she believed the recent pre-dawn Security Police raids were either intimidatory or diversionary tactics by the Government.

"They are an attempt to keep the country tense about the security of the State and so divert people's attention from the awful mess into which the Government has pushed this country," she said.

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Breakfast quip

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"They are an attempt to keep the country tense about the security of the State and so divert people's attention from the awful mess into which the Government has pushed this country," she said.

She did not believe that merely amending Section Six of the Terrorism Act would be of any avail, so long as basic power for detention without trial remained on the Statute Book.

Mr. Abe Domingo, former Labour Party Chief Whip, said Section Six was "the prostitution of the people's rights". If a State was run with justice there was no need for fear of terrorism.

"Who then is responsible for the situation in South Africa today? I put the blame four-square on the shoulders of the White electorate," he said.

He pointed out that all 17 people known to have died in detention had been Non-White.

"The time has come when the State and the White electo-

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● Text of Helen Suzman's speech — Page 14

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rate must take stock of the situation. They must now realise they cannot any longer hide behind the cloak of Christianity, and hide behind the cloak of so-called democracy and forever mete out injustices to the people of this country — the majority of its peoples."

Miss Jenny Cunningham, president of the University of the Witwatersrand Students' Representative Council, said the term terrorism should surely be applied to the State.

"It is up to us to act. It is up to us now to carry the fight on — even if it lasts for as long as we live," she said.

None of the 17 people who had died in detention had ever been brought to trial. And more than 47 men and women had signed affidavits alleging torture by the police since

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