

JOHANNESBURG, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1971.

MASS MEETING ATTACKS POLICE RAIDS

'Aim is to keep

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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.

She did not believe that merely amending Section Six of the Terrorism Act would be of any avail, so long as basic powers 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

PROTEST AT POLICE RAIDS

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detention-without-trial had been introduced.

The Anglican Bishop of Pretoria, the Right Rev. E. G. Knapp-Fisher, has also supported calls for a judicial commission of inquiry into allegations of ill-treatment of detainees.

Writing in the diocesan publication, The Kingdom, he said repressive measures inevitably made it possible for those responsible for law and order to "ignore principles of justice and even engage in cruelty and torture."

Only a judicial commission of inquiry could establish the facts, he said.

The South African Indian Council has sent a telegram to the Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Waring, telling him "the tremendous amount of unrest" among the Indian community at the recent death while in detention of Mr. Ahmed Timol.

The chairman of the council's executive committee, Mr. A. M. Rajab, said yesterday that the council had asked for an inquiry into Mr. Timol's death-fall from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square in Johannesburg.

"We emphasised the deep concern at Ahmed Timol's death, and also at the illness of another Indian detainee, Mr. Mohammed Essop, and requested the police to issue a statement immediately to dispel the uncertainty and rumours surrounding the two incidents."

The Secretary for Indian Affairs, Mr. H. A. Prinsloo, replying on behalf of the Minister, referred the council to the Prime Minister's statement, in which he said the matter was being investigated and the police were carrying out routine inquiries.

Major-General C. A. Buys, Chief of the CID, yesterday called on Mrs. Yusuf Timol, mother of Mr. Ahmed Timol, to take a statement from her at her Roodepoort home.

Lawyers said last night they expect Mr. Timol's inquest to be held in six weeks' time. They said they had been told that post-mortem reports would still take three or four weeks to complete.

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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-

● Text of Helen Suzman's speech — Page 14

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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