

RE REASD DAILY MAIL - NOV. 5th - 1971

the Government to incorporate the same safeguards here:

THE SECRET DEATH

THE TROUBLE WITH a reflex defence of the Security Police is that it simply does not reassure anyone. The Prime Minister made a particular point last week of saying that the procedure required by law in the case of death had always been complied with, and always would be, and so there was no need for a special judicial commission.

In the case of unnatural death, the procedure is that there must be an inquest which is open to the public. This being so, how does the Government explain the case of the unknown detainee?

He was one of 17 who are known to have died in detention. His death — on an undisclosed date of an unknown cause — was mentioned in Parliament two years ago by the Minister of Justice, who offered no more details, not even a name. If the "procedure required by law" was complied with, why did he not provide the information the law says the public is entitled to? If an inquest were not held, the police must have been satisfied that death was natural. But why wouldn't the Minister tell us even that? And what kind of a system is it anyway that allows the identity of a dead detainee to be kept secret for years?