

CID chief says 'I won't help Timols see son'

By JENNIFER MILES Nov 7, 1977

MAJOR-GENERAL C. A. BUYS, head of the C.I.D., who is investigating the death of Mr. Ahmed Timol, told Mr. and Mrs. Yussuf Timol when he visited them this week that he would try to obtain permission for them to see their other son, Mohamed, who is detained in Durban, said Mrs. Timol.

But when I spoke to General Buys yesterday, he said: "Now that they have run to the Press and told them, I am not going to do anything about it. If they want to tell the Press everything I say to them, they can turn to them for help too."

When I told General Buys that they had not come to me but that I had gone to see them, he said: "It makes no difference. I am not going to do a thing to help them."

Frantic

When I visited Mrs. Timol at her Roodepoort home yesterday she told me she and her husband were frantic with worry about their son Mohamed.

"He only arrived home from England, where he was studying textile technology, on September 29," she said. "He spent 10 days with us before he went to Durban to look for a job and we have not heard from him since."

"We don't even know whether he knows that his brother is dead," said Mrs. Timol.

"General Buys came to see me on Thursday to take my statement about the police officer who told me when Ahmed was arrested that I would never see him alive again."

"He was very kind and polite to us. I told him that I was so worried about Mohamed, especially because of what had happened to Ahmed. He said that he would try to obtain permission for us to see him, to set

our minds at rest.

"When I asked him what had happened to Ahmed, General Buys said we would find out at the inquest."

Mrs. Timol showed me the death certificate of her son Ahmed. The cause of death was "nog nie vasgestel nie" (not yet established).

General Buys made it clear that all the evidence he gathers about Mr. Timol's death will be made public. It is expected that the inquiries will take some time.

DETAINEES: WEST

The Star Bureau

NEW YORK — The major Western powers yesterday voted with an overwhelming majority of United Nations members for a resolution expressing "grave indignation and concern" over any and every act of maltreatment and torture of opponents of apartheid.

The resolution, sponsored by 55 states, was prompted by the conviction and sentencing of the Dean of Johannesburg and the death of Mr Ahmed Timol in a fall from a window at Johannesburg Police Headquarters.

Only Portugal voted against the resolution in the General Assembly's special political committee, which consists of representatives of all UN member nations. Malawi and Brazil abstained. Botswana was among the 36 states that were absent.

BACKS UN VOTE

Britain, France and the United States, as well as Lesotho and Swaziland, were among the 90 nations that voted for the resolution.

AMERICA

The United States representative, Mr Ernest Grigg, said his delegation was concerned about recent reports from South Africa, particularly the reports of the death of Mr Timol.

"While the circumstances of his death are not entirely

clear," Mr Grigg said, "my delegation is concerned at the unwillingness of the South African authorities to permit a judicial inquiry into this and previous deaths of South Africans while detained under security laws."

Mr Grigg said his delegation believed that opponents of the South African Government's policies should not be punished for their opposition. He said the fact that some Africans could be detained for long periods of time without the

right to see a lawyer and subjected to inhuman conditions, contradicted claims of belief in the rule of law.

While the resolution did not specifically refer to the conviction of the dean or the death of Mr Timol, its sponsors made it clear that it was prompted by these two events. Both were strongly criticised during the debate on the resolution.

SUSPENDED

The committee suspended its general debate on apartheid to allow for discussion and voting on the resolution.

Britain's representative, Mr Peter Petrie, said the main purpose of the resolution was to register universal indignation and concern at the treatment of those who suffered for their opposition to "an abhorrent system."

The resolution calls on all States to do all in their power to promote the cause of justice for all people in South Africa and to use their influence to achieve the repeal of all legislation designed to give effect to apartheid and to persecute and suppress the rights of those opposed to that policy; to achieve the liberation of people imprisoned or detained for their opposition to apartheid, and to achieve the removal of orders against those banned or banished because they oppose apartheid.

"SAVAGE"

It asks the UN's apartheid committee to prepare a special report on all known cases of maltreatment and torture of political prisoners, and requests the Secretary General to publicise all available information on this subject.

The Star's Geneva correspondent reports that the International Commission of Jurists has described the five-year imprisonment imposed on the dean as "savage," and deplored the "insidious Terrorism Act under which he was convicted."

The Star's Ottawa correspondent reports that the Canadian External Affairs Minister, Mr Mitchell Sharp, said in the Canadian Commons yesterday that "the sooner apartheid ends in South Africa the better the world will be."

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