...ears ... on

essor John Dugard

...Transvaal, was brought ...e now famous trial of ...". They had been de... tried and found not ... and immediately re-ar...

...urgent application was ...y the relatives to res... Security Police from ...lly interfering with...

...time the judge ruled ...application was not a ...of urgency.

...third application was ...Natal at the beginning ...year. An interdict was ...for on behalf of one of ...ople detained in connec... the Maritzburg trial. ...as settled out of court, ...no giving an undertak-

ing not to use unlawful methods of interrogation.

On the face of it, you might think that Mr. Ismail Essop's success with his application — which was presented last Friday by Mr. I. A. Maisels, QC, and granted by Mr. Justice Margo — would have diminished his anxieties about his son considerably.

This is not so. As the days go by his concern intensifies.

He explains: "In my application I requested that Mahommed be removed from the jail hospital and transferred to a public hospital where proper medical care could be administered to him and where he will be free from interrogation.

"In addition, I asked that a private doctor be permitted to examine my son."

He was so sure in his own mind that Mahommed would be transferred to a public hospital from the prison that he set off from his Roodepoort home early last Saturday morning and called at the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria where his son had previously been treated for his injuries.

Mahommed was not there.

Daughter

Says Mr. Essop, described this week by a relative as being "near the end of his tether": "I am in the position of having two of my children under detention and not knowing where either of them is, or what condition they are in."

His elder daughter, Fatima, 27, was taken from the Essop family home in Smal Street, Roodepoort, during the Security Police swoop the weekend before last.

After hearing argument last Friday in the Supreme Court, Pretoria, Mr. Justice Margo made two significant suggestions to the authorities:

- That a full investigation be made into the case of Mahommed Essop, and
- That private doctors of the parents' choice be permitted to examine Mahommed.

The police, adhering to the letter of the law, have chosen to reject both suggestions.

It should be noted that both these points put to the authorities by Mr. Justice Margo were only suggestions.

No power

In terms of the Terrorism Act, under which Mahommed Essop and other detainees are being held, a judge is not empowered to write such aspects into an order against the Security Police or the Minister.

The stumbling-blocks are Clauses 5 and 6 of Section 6 of the Act. They state:

"No court of law shall pronounce upon the validity of any action taken under this section, or order the release of any detainee" (Clause 5).

"No person other than the Minister or an officer in the service of the State acting in the performance of his official duties, shall have access to any detainee, or shall be entitled to any information relating to or obtained from any detainee" (Clause 6).

Any policemen, even Security Policemen, who physically molest detainees during interrogation, or at any other time, are in law committing the crime of assault.

Effect

The effect of the interdict granted by Mr. Justice Margo is that if Mohammed Essop's interrogators in the present or in the future assaulted him, they would be committing contempt of court in addition to assault.

As no one can have contact with Essop apart from the Security Police and other Government officers, it is not known whether the detainee knows of the proceedings or of the court's judgment in his favour.

There is another aspect to the Essop case, one which might effect other detainees as well.

Joubert

The Commissioner of Police, General Gideon Joubert, was reported on Monday to have said that "if Mahommed Essop submits a charge of assault, this will be dealt with in the customary manner and presented to the Attorney-General or his representative."

Is Essop, or any other detainee likely to submit such a charge? Lawyers concerned with detainee cases think it unlikely. As one says: "In the present climate, would you?"

Mr. Ismail Essop, father of two detainees — Mahommed and Fatima Essop — does not know whether his son has been told of the Supreme Court judgment in his favour.

Where are Afrikaner critics now?

A SHORT WHILE ago you challenged English-speaking South Africans to stand up and be counted in support of certain Afrikaner intellectuals who were opposing the Government on the Coloured issue.

Since then, we have had Father Wrankmore fasting for 67 days in an attempt to have Imam Haron's death the subject of a judicial commission. We have had the main churches, with the conspicuous exception of the three Afrikaans churches, appeal for an end to detention without trial and sympathy fasts all over the country for Father Wrankmore's objectives, which he later broadened to include visits by a judge and a doctor to detainees.

With utter cynicism, "Mr. Vorster's bully boys," as Mr. Eglin so rightly terms them, have staged more raids, and again a young South African has died while in their hands and another is in hospital.

Where now are the Afrikaner intellectuals and all the others to whom the fair name of our country still has some meaning?

Is it not time for all men of good faith to stand together and say "Thus far and no farther" to those who have respect for neither the rule of law nor the rights of the individual, which are an intrinsic part of the Christian Western ideals and of democracy to which we still pay lip service. — RUTH HALL, Sydenham, Johannesburg.

Call to the Prime Minister . . .

Satisfy us that SA is just and humane

AS A VISITOR to South Africa, I must reply to Mr. Thomas Rhoderick Scott's (no relation) letter published in the Rand Daily Mail, October 29.

I arrived in this country on September 23 as a fully fledged immigrant in my early 20s. I had completed all necessary procedures in London and had been accepted by the South African Government as an Englishman suitable for settling in South Africa.

Yet now I still call myself a visitor.

During my first months here, everything was new and I confess I paid little attention to the internal affairs of the country.

I am no politician and usually care little about politics. I believe that "when in Rome . . ."

I am no street corner heckler, no terrorist, no extreme Leftwing journalist. I am merely a Mr. Average who has come to South Africa prepared, like the thousands of other immigrants, to accept the country for what it is.

I came here ostensibly to better myself and to become independent. Also to discover the real South Africa which had become so clouded in my mind by reports in the Press and on television overseas.

I am happy here in my job and social life. I have no regrets about making the move but, and here I return to Mr. Scott's letter, I do feel that I ought to say something on behalf of the immigrants in this country.

Every country in the world has its problems and deals with them in many different ways. In the major Western countries there are [illegible]

[illegible]

SCOTT, Yeoville, Johannesburg.

Security makes all the difference

X: I see that there are allegations of rough treatment of political prisoners in Ireland.

Y: Yes, I think it's dreadful.

X: What is dreadful, the allegation or the idea of rough treatment?

Y: The idea of rough treatment of course.

X: I believe there have been the same rumours in Spain.

Y: Yes, isn't it dreadful.

X: And in Russia.

Y: Yes, isn't it dreadful.

X: The same allegations are being made in South Africa.

Y: [illegible] — K. ANDERSON, Harrow Road, Sandhurst, Sandton.

I grieve more for African miners killed at work

MANY MORE than 17 African miners have, in the course of honest labour, fallen down an ore-pass or a mine shaft and earned a one sentence obituary in the Rand Daily Mail.

Such deaths arouse more grief in me than the pages of emotionalism that have dominated your newspaper since Mr. Ahmed Timol's jump.

All along, it was abundantly clear that this swoop was not a random assault on the inhabitants of this country, and the SABC was the only mass medium to react with the restraint this patently called for.

I have to admit that the utterances of the United and Progressive Party spokesmen are more sensible than your own. This is particularly true of the "loss of control" contention which once telegraphed [illegible] most certainly suggest that the Prime Minister and others — and the opposition, Parliament — are no longer in control and that we are ruled by the Security Police, the "police state" announced.

This is surely the most [illegible]

[illegible] — Emmarentia, Johannesburg.

...ing a safe car

...RDON WILKINS: Stuttgart

...cal and the protecting ...s covering pelvis and ...which project behind the ...seats. Even so, the first ...ed at 30 mph with five ...re indicated that all oc... would be killed ...urban, the Motor Indus... Research Association claims ...he American standard ...air-bags engineers by ...chest blows three ...as high as they would be ...man beings. At the con... demonstrated a more ...le British dummy. ...ish researchers also ...that the braking perform... on the ESV required ...the US specification is so ...that it is not likely to ...e any progress in brake ...

...t showed a film of ex... air bags blowing the ...out of a car and bending ...of, and this, followed by ...actual demonstration ...by Daimler Benz when ...air bags erupted with a ...equal to 12 shotguns, ...to the growing number ...re resolved never to use a

car equipped with such a terrifying device.

A more attractive use of air is the Fiat-Pirelli lightweight pneumatic bumper, filled with compressed air which is released on impact and cuts the shock of a 30 mph crash by more than half.

Discussing harnesses as an alternative to airbags, Dr. Fiala of Volkswagen showed that the protection obtained in a high-speed crash depends very much on how much restraint and restriction one is prepared to accept before the crash.

From France, Renault and Peugeot showed films of simulated c r o s s r o a d s accidents which demonstrated how heavy reinforcements in the nose of a car cancel out the work that is being done in strengthening doors against side impact. They emphasised the need for less aggressive designs.

They have already destroyed 450 cars in crash tests and are planning to crash another 200 next year.

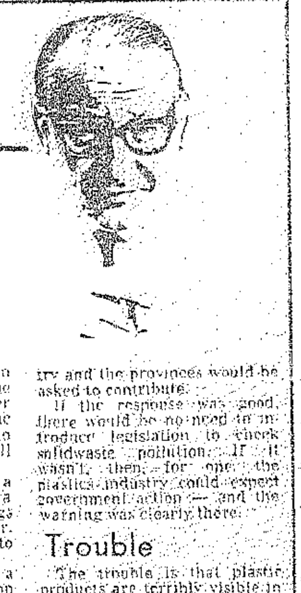
Many Americans are convinced that small cars are dangerous and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is apparently about to issue a report denouncing the VW Beetle and the rear-engined Fiats and Renaults as defective in design.

American delegates were therefore dumbfounded when Fiat produced Government accident analyses showing that in Italy cars under 750 cc are the safest on the road in terms of the figures for deaths of occupants or deaths of third parties.

Dr. Scherenberg, technical director of Mercedes-Benz, who were hosts to the conference, revealed their ESV, a 250 saloon heavily reinforced and fitted with big projecting bumpers on hydraulic rams — which is well on the way to meeting the specification but is being delayed by the unreliability of air bags and dummy occupants.

But whatever the fate of the ESV project it has served its purpose in making car manufacturers more safety-minded, and the specifications are being modified in the light of fast increasing knowledge on crash protection.

...AUL IRWIN



...he costly old ...ness we live in

...in a play, I give you a ...within a quote. How so? ...king Mr. Bolitho's figures ...a talk he had recently ...one of the editors of Plas... Southern Africa, official ...al of the Plastics Institute ...vast and somewhat dis... continent.

...there in the October issue ...e magazine, it stems from ...ddress given to the Trans... branch of the Plastics In... on plastics waste by Mr. ...Power, an experienced re... of the modern age's ...lem child.

...nd this particular problem ...is plastic waste. Never ...so than when it is a one... container.

...ou know, the thing you use ...and throw away — slap ...he middle of some beauty ...as often as not.

...hile the problem of doing ...disappearing trick with ...the plastics especially con... Mr. Bolitho in the inter... since he comments on Mr ...er's address, while ...gazine prints in full ...es a crack at litter bi... in

"Plastics are a real problem in rural situations," is the way our assistant city engineer puts it. "Here, thin-film plastic waste poses a real danger to livestock. I have seen it kill cattle."

Anybody who has watched a dairy cow, as I have, chew a line of washing, clothes pegs and all, will know that Mr. Bolitho isn't talking just to make our flesh creep.

What's a plastic bottle to a cow with something to chew on her mind? A mere nothing, except it is a long sight more indigestible than washing and clothes pegs.

What's to do to clean up the mess? All the mess, not simply plastics? Here is the answer given by Mr. Bolitho in the magazine interview:

Plastics

"What we need is a massive advertising and public relations campaign . . . The time has come to ask industry to help. Not just the plastics industry but also the soft drink industry and the provinces would be asked to contribute.

If the response was good, there would be no need to introduce legislation to check solidwaste pollution. If it wasn't, then — for one — the plastics industry could expect government action — and the warning was clearly there.

Trouble

The trouble is that plastic products are terribly visible in spite of the fact that they contribute no more than two or three per cent to the content of municipal waste.

It's when the stuff is left lying around the landscape that it hurts. So says Mr. Power in his talk to the Plastics Institute when conjuring up pictures of beer bottles thrown on grass verges, fertiliser bags blown against fences, six or so styrene drinking cups pockmarking a corner.

Who puts it all there? "Homo sapiens," says Mr. Power. Yes, we the Dear Public, members of the ...

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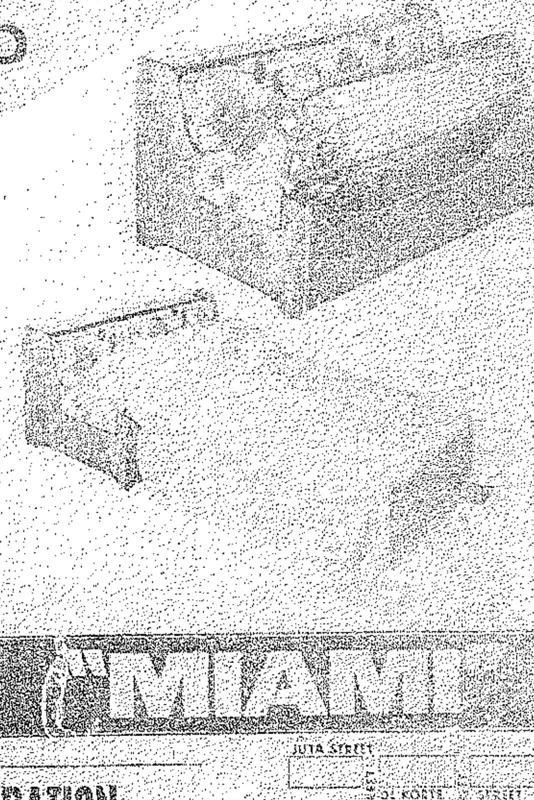

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