

# Embassies push for meetings with detainees

By CLIVE EMDON

THE BRITISH, German and Australian embassies and the United States Consul General's office in Johannesburg have made inquiries and representations to the South African Government and Police in their concern for the welfare of six foreign citizens detained by the Security Police in the past week.

They have also had discussions with one another.

Mr Quentin Jacobson, a Briton, and Mr. Joergen Wagner, a German, both photographers arrested last Tuesday for alleged drug offences and later under the Terrorism Act, are still in detention.

So are Mr. David Smith, a Briton and Mr. Martin Cohen, an Australian.

## WOMEN

Fifteen Indian men and women, a Malay woman and a white student are still detained under the Terrorism Act and have now been held for more than 14 days.

A British Consulate official said last night the two Britons, Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Smith, would be visited at John Vorster Square early today. He said permission had come through for the visit early in the evening.

Yesterday Mr. Wagner, 23, was visited at John Vorster Square, police headquarters in Johannesburg, by the German Embassy's legal and consular officer, Miss C. H. Kuss.

She told the Rand Daily Mail last night she had seen him for half an hour between noon and 1 pm.

Two police colonels were present throughout the interview which was conducted in an office.

## 'HAPPY'

She said: "We were very happy to be granted access to Mr Wagner.

"He had no specific complaints and seemed in good health."

Miss Kuss said a condition of the interview was that she could not discuss matters related to his detention. This would be allowed at a later stage with a lawyer if and when Mr. Wagner was charged.

"I explained to him why it had taken us so long to see him," Miss Kuss said. "The main thing is that he knows the embassy is doing something."

She said the police told her they would keep in touch with the embassy which has asked for further meetings with Mr. Wagner. The possibility of sending him food and clothing is still to be taken up by the embassy.

## PERMIT

Miss Kuss said Mr. Wagner had been in South Africa for 18 months. She was unable to say if he was an immigrant or a visitor with a resident's permit.

Meanwhile, both the British and Australian embassies are awaiting news on when they can see the two Britons and Australians being detained.

Both the British Ambassador, Sir Arthur Snelting, and the Australian Ambassador, Mr. T. W. Cutts, have visited the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hilgard Muller, on instructions from their governments.

A British Consulate official said the Australian, and German, embassies and United States Consulate officials had held discussions concerning the nature of the Terrorism Act and were making individual representations.

An Australian Embassy official confirmed a report from Canberra that the Australian Government is seeking an urgent interview with Mr. Martin Cohen, one of the detainees.

## Local lawyers silent

STAFF REPORTER

TRANSVAAL LAWYERS are keeping silent in the face of mounting calls for a judicial probe into the treatment of Security Police detainees.

The chairmen of the Southern Transvaal Bar Council, the Pretoria Bar Council, and the General Council of the Bar of South Africa all refused to comment yesterday on the Cape Bar's statement, which expresses concern over the number of people who have died in detention and calls for a judicial inquiry.

Mr. G. A. Coetzee, QC, of the General Council, and Mr. C. F. Eloff, of the Pretoria Bar, both said their councils would not be making any statements on the matter.

"We are not interested," Mr. Eloff said. Mr. W. Schreiner said the Southern Transvaal Council had taken no decision yet.

## 100 sign protest on raids

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — More than 100 Grahamstown Cathedral parishioners signed a petition this week deploring the conduct of the Security Police.

The petition is to be submitted to the Minister of Justice, Mr. P. C. Pelser.

The petition reads: "We, the undersigned members of the Grahamstown Cathedral Parish, note that prominent members of our communion were visited by members of the special branch between 4 am and 5 am on Sunday October 24.

"We deplore the timing of those visits, particularly to men of God who were preparing for the Lord's Day services.

"If the special branch had legitimate business with such men as the Right Reverend Philip Russell, Bishop of Port Elizabeth, and the Reverend Ivan Weiss, this could, in our view, have been undertaken at realistic time of day without in any way impeding the effectiveness of their investigations.

"... As Christians and loyal South Africans, we cannot urge too strongly that all the facts surrounding these deplorable events be brought before an impartial commission of inquiry so that justice may not only be done but may, by all who have the well-being of our country at heart, be seen to be done."

## Graaff hits at PM over attacks on Press

By BERNARDI WESSELS Political Correspondent

BLOEMFONTEIN. — Sir De Villiers Graaff last night hit out at the Prime Minister for failing to control attacks on the English Press by Cabinet Ministers over the death of Mr. Ahmed Timol.

Sir De Villiers was opening the United Party's National Congress in the Bloemfontein City Hall.

He said the English language Press had largely "voiced the concern of the country over the recent death of Mr. Timol."

Did the Prime Minister not realise that this type of attack and the threats implied in it would do as much harm to South Africa in the outside world as the original news about the death of Mr. Timol?

"And just what does he think it will do to his policy of dialogue with the states of Africa. Can you imagine anything more irresponsible?", Sir De Villiers said.

## INQUIRY

Sir De Villiers repeated his demand for a judicial inquiry before a packed City Hall.

Only a judicial inquiry into Mr. Timol's death, the methods used by the police and "why detainees are held under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act and not under the General Laws Amendment Act," which provided for a measure of judicial control, would achieve "the goodwill of all our peoples and indicate confidence in the police and their methods," he said.

What had the Government to fear, Sir De Villiers asked if the methods described by Colonel Swanepoel, the chief Security Police interrogator, were general.

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## HEALTH

Mr. Nigel Bowen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Australian Government, told this to the Australian Parliament yesterday. He said: "We have an assurance that he is in good health and we have passed on this information to his parents in Sydney."

Mr. S. B. Cohen, a Sydney businessman, said he was relieved to hear the news but still wanted the full facts of his son's detention.

He said he was keeping a constant vigil by his telephone and had done so since he first heard of his son's imprisonment last Saturday.

He said he could not understand why his son was in jail as he had never been in trouble before.

"He is what I call the boffin type — only interested in books, concerts and music."

He said his 26-year-old son left home six months ago on a working holiday around the world. Mr. Martin Cohen is a nephew of the late Senator Samuel Cohen, a former Liberal Party senator in the Australian Government, who died last year.

Bar's statement, which deplores the detention and calls for a judicial inquiry. Mr. G. A. Coetzee, Q.C., of the General Council, and Mr. C. F. Eloff, of the Pretoria Bar, both said their councils would not be making any statements on the matter.

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