

POLICE HIELD

UP JAIL

12/11

VISIT TO ESSOP

Pretoria Bureau

A COURT OFFICIAL was prevented for nine days from serving a copy of an interdict on the Security Police detainee Mohamed Essop.

On October 29 Mr Ismail Essop obtained a temporary order in the Supreme Court in Pretoria prohibiting the police from interrogating his 21-year-old Witwatersrand University student son in any way other than prescribed by law.

In terms of the temporary order granted by Mr Justice Margo, the detainee was to be served with a copy of the interdict.

The first attempt to do so by an officer of the Supreme Court failed. On November 2 the Assistant Deputy Sheriff, Mr H. P. N. van Zyl, visited the Pretoria Central Prison, where he served a copy of the interdict on a Captain Schepel, the officer in charge of the prison.

The return of service document signed by Mr van Zyl says that Captain Schepel refused to allow the Deputy Sheriff to see the detainee personally in order to serve a copy of the interdict on him. His reason was that he was under instructions to allow no one to see Mr Essop. According to the return of service document, Captain Schepel accepted service of the interdict for and on behalf of the detainee.

Nearly a week later, on November 8, it has been reliably confirmed, the Sheriff of the Supreme Court, Mr J. J. Myburgh, was successful in serving a copy of the interdict on Mr Essop personally.

Telephoned for comment at his office in Pretoria this morning, General P. J. Venter, head of the Security Police, said: "I have nothing to say about anything, you will get nothing out of me. My door is closed."

Student held after dawn police raid

MR MAX KATZ (27), a third-year BA student at the University of the Witwatersrand, was detained under the Terrorism Act by Security Police this morning after they searched his Observatory home for three hours.

Mr Katz is majoring in psychology, English literature and political science. He was midway through writing examinations at the time of his arrest. Five Wits students are now in detention.

Mr Katz shares a house in Regent Street East with seven other students and young artists.

Another occupant of the house is Miss Theresa McCann, niece of Cardinal Owen McCann.

On November 5 she was questioned for five hours by Security Police when she went to John Vorster Square to inquire after three detainees, Mr Quentin Jacobson and Mr David Smith, who are British, and Mr Martin Ivor Cohen, an Australian.

On November 8 and 9 she went to John Vorster Square for further questioning. She was interrogated a total of 16 hours.

Other occupants of the house said six Security policemen arrived about 4.45 am today with a search warrant.

The search went on for three hours, during which the men knocked on bedroom doors to awaken the occupants, then went through their rooms. They left at 7.45 am, taking

Mr Katz with them. The men removed six pairs of pliers, a soldering iron, a few pieces of hardboard, some personal letters and a number of books from Mr Katz's room.

A THIRD member of the Essop family of Johannesburg, Miss Haira Essop (21), was detained by Security Police last night.

She is a sister of Mr Mohammed Essop whose hospitalisation during his detention led to an urgent court application in Pretoria last month. Mr Essop's other sister, Fatima, was arrested early on Saturday, October 23.

Late Flash