

# MULLDER BACKS SECURITY MEN

THE Minister of Information, Dr Mulder, last night attacked newspapers for suggesting the Security Police could be acting incorrectly before detainees were brought to court.

Dr Mulder was speaking at a meeting of Nationalists of the Heidelberg constituency at Meyerton.

He also said he disagreed with the choice of words by the Minister of the Interior, Mr Gerdenier, when he told the Afrikaanse Sakekamer last week that the gap between the living standards of Black and White could lead to "murder and violence."

Explaining the Government's outward policy, he said that South Africa's enemies were mainly White people, not Black people.

Dr Mulder said the Security Police formed the first line of defence between South Africa and terrorists. When the police acted it was wrong for newspapers to criticise cases brought to court.

"To make all sorts of suggestions is a purposeful plan to discredit the Security Police."

## CALIBRE

If the Security Police sat back, he continued, people would say they were not doing their job. He referred to Abram Fischer and said that when the facts came out the newspapers which had been critical kept quiet.

"I have enough trust in the calibre of the men of the Security Police to wait until these people appear before the court. Then I will judge," he added. He said the Security Police did not often make mistakes.

Because the Government's race policy is being increasingly accepted overseas and is being recognised as fulfilling the principle of ethnical democracy, some enemies are becoming more determined and blatant in their attacks.

Dr Mulder, while referring to the Press, asked how many people know the name of the detainee who died when he fell from the 10th storey at John Vorster Square and how many knew the name of the policeman who died as a result of the landmine explosion in the Caprivri Strip.

Asked by a member of the audience if the report of the speech by Mr Gerdenier in a Sunday newspaper was correct, Dr Mulder said his colleague had the right to express his views.

He understood Mr Gerdenier wanted to show that the gap in living standards between Black and White could lead to dissatisfaction.

Emphatically, he said, "I would not have used those words if I had made the speech. I think my colleague's choice of words was unfortunate and open to misunderstanding."

Dr Mulder said there were two facts to be remembered if the situation in South Africa were to be understood. There were non-White people who could not be wished away and there were White people who had a place in South Africa.

## COLOURS

Explaining the party's policy, he said the Afrikaner knows nationalism and it can be a powerful force. We must take account of the fact that Black people want to be their own masters and, in the same way as Afrikaner nationalism could not be kept down, Black nationalism would not be kept down.

He added that when Black states in South Africa are independent they should be allowed to join the United Nations.

Dr Mulder emphasised there would be no integration with the Coloureds. A homeland would be a good idea, he said, if it was practical. Therefore there would be parallel development. There is no way of knowing what will happen in the future, he continued, and coming generations would have to decide what to do.

# The Star

## Dr Mulder joins the confusion

IT is disappointing to find Dr Mulder, who is said to be one of the more intelligent members of the Cabinet, contributing to the Ministerial confusion over the Security Police and the Press.

Last night he accused newspapers of complicity in a "purposeful plan to discredit the Security Police."

What has in fact happened is that all worthwhile newspapers are indeed implicated, quite openly and deliberately, not in disparaging the police but in trying to uphold the rule of law. This is precisely because they believe it is the most reliable, even if harder, way of resisting subversion.

None has ever been barmy enough to want the security system to fail, and when Ministers make accusations of this sort they carefully avoid being specific.

Certainly, the police have been criticised, not least by the Nationalist Party's own Press, for claiming up too much.

But they have not been totally silent. After all, they have given their version of how Timol died, they have explained how civilised are their interrogation methods, and they have lent support to otherwise unsubstantial stories about a vast Red plot in which Timol and, by inference, other detainees, were key figures.

In fact, the thing that really disturbs the consciences of many decent people is that detainees are being prejudged.

South Africans inherit a very old and profound sense of fair play, so if anything is undermining confidence in the security system it may well be its separation from the courts. If so this provides all the more reason why security should once again be aligned with the rule of law.