

VISIT TO TIMOL'S DEATH SITE

ALL documents to be used in a formal inquest on Mr. Ahmed Essop Timol, the 30-year-old school teacher who plunged to his death from the 10th floor of John Voster Square last October 26, have been made available to his parents and their legal representatives.

This was revealed today in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court at the resumption of the inquest, presided over by Mr. J. J. L. de Villiers, assisted by Dr. I. W. Simpson, a pathologist.

Mr de Villiers said he wished to place on record that on December 1 last year, when the inquest was originally scheduled to begin, Mr I. A. Maiseis, QC, assisted by Mr G. Bizos (representing the Timol family), requested access to documents that had been placed before the court.

This request was refused, and the matter taken to the Supreme Court where judgment in favour of the Timol family was delivered on January 28.

"Subsequently, I had the opportunity of perusing all the documents, and after discussing the matter with Mr Maiseis and the police, I decided which documents would be relevant to the inquest, and it is these that I propose using," Mr de Villiers said.

He added: "I had decided also to make all these documents available to the Timol family, their counsel, and all other interested parties, including the Press."

Adjourn

Visit to Timol death site

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affidavits of certain witnesses being read to the court without the people in question being called as witnesses.

"These are a Constable Thimish, of Newlands police station, Warrant Officer N. Els, Mr Khan, believed to be an undertaker, Mr Ras, Mr Mostert, Mr Pourie, Mr le Four and Mr du Preez. There may be others whom it would not be necessary to call as the inquest proceeds," Mr Maiseis submitted.

Agreed

Mr de Villiers said he felt the inspection applied for must be held before evidence was led, and agreed that it would be a good thing that the two doctors be allowed to compare findings. He also agreed that if counsel for the Timol family felt it unnecessary to call certain witnesses, their affidavits would be sufficient for the purpose of the inquest.

Mr S. A. Chilfers, instructed by the attorney general on behalf of the South African Police, intimated that he, too, had no objection to the witnesses named not being called. The magistrate, Mr de Villiers, Mr Maiseis, Mr Bizos, Mr P. A. Z. Kotze, Mr A. Beukes, Major General C. A. Buys, South Africa's CID chief and other senior officers, made the inspection in loco at John Voster Square.

The court and legal representatives inspected the spot where Mr Timol landed after falling 10 floors.

From there they went to the 10th floor to inspect the office where Mr Timol was questioned by the police.

Mr Yusuf Timol (65) and his wife, Hava (53), parents of the dead man, were allowed to see the place where their son was questioned.

Although the magistrate had no objection to the Press accompanying the party, the police refused to allow newspaper photographers to take photographs either of the dustbins where Mr Timol landed or the office where he was questioned.

(Proceeding)
Mr I. J. I. de Villiers, assisted by a pathologist, Dr I. W. Simpson, is in the bench. Evidence is being led by the Deputy Senior Public Prosecutor, Mr Frankes, J. Kotze, assisted by Mr. A. Maiseis, QC, assisted by Mr G. Bizos, representing the Timol family, and Mr S. A. Chilfers, is representing the police.

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