Pictures 'ban' is clarified

MAJOR GENERAL C. A. Buys, head of the CID, today clarified a "ban" placed on newsmen at John Vorster Square yesterday when an inspection in loco was held there as part of the Timol inquest proceedings.

Major General Buys intimated that a misunderstanding had occurred when he prohibited newsmen from taking photographs from within John Vorster Square. "I never at any stage prohibited any newspaperman to photograph the building, however," he said.

The general added that the "ban" had been placed on photographers who wanted to take pictures from the tenth-floor window from which Mr Ahmed Essop Timol, a 30-year-old Roodepoort schoolteacher, fell to his death last October.

General Buys pointed out that pictures inside the building were prohibited.

SHRUB

Newsmen who accompanied the court on its inspection in loco yesterday were given the impression that no photographs whatsoever may be taken. This included a photograph of a shrub into which Mr Timol had plunged.

"You can take as many pictures as you wish of the bush," General Buys said.

The magistrate presiding over the inquest, Mr J. J. L. de Villiers, told newsmen yesterday he thought they should attend the inspection as it was in the public interest.

Timol inquest

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brother, Henry, and Mr Martin Cohen, a former detainee.

Mr Maisels asked Colonel van Wyk whether this question of any connection with Mr Jacobsen was of grave importance, and the witness replied that it was.

Mr Maisels: You made the allegation that Mr Jacobsen and Mr Timol were so closely connected that they had made plans to carry out sabotage?—That is my opinion.

Colonel van Wyk said he made the statement about the suspected connection between Mr Jacobsen and Mr Timol in an affidavit.

Prosecuted

Mr Maisels asked the witness whether he knew that Mr Jacobsen was prosecuted under the Terrorism Act. The Security Police officer replied that he was not connected with that case.

Mr Maisels put it to him that the name Mr Ahmed Timol was not mentioned in that case as a co-conspirator.

Colonel van Wyk said he was not involved with the investigation of the case of Mr Jacobsen and did not know the particulars of the trial.

Mr Maisels told the witness that Mr Martin Cohen was a former detainee and that he was called as a State witness at Mr Jacobsen's trial.

He also put to the witness that in that trial the State did not allege that Mr Cohen was an accomplice. Again Colonel van Wyk replied that he was not involved with the case.

Lucky

Questioned further, the witness said that Mr Jacobsen was a very lucky man to get off (loskom).

Colonel van Wyk was then asked about Mr Timol's interrogation.

Mr Maisels asked the witness why there was not a single piece of paper that Captain Bean, Mr Timol or the witness wrote during Mr Timol's interrogation.

Connection

Mr Maisels then went on to question the witness about the methods used by the police during interrogations.

Mr Maisels submitted that it had been said that pressure was used to get a detainee to make a statement.

He suggested that the witness was keen to find out whether there was a connection between Mr Timol and Mr Jacobsen and asked whether angry questions were put to Mr Timol.

Colonel van Wyk said he used patience to get the confidence of the person he was interrogating.

He said the first thing to do was to win that person's trust. Mr Maisels said to the witness that in his statement he had said Mr Timol was of priceless value.

"He not only had to be guarded but guarded in cotton wool," submitted Mr Maisels.

Injuries

Mr Maisels said that if there was medical evidence that Mr Timol received certain injuries before falling down from the 10th floor, could the witness say that these injuries did not occur in his presence.

The witness said that was correct.

The Security Police officer told the court when he heard Mr Timol had fallen to his death he was extremely shocked.

He did not believe the news. After being told about Mr Timol's death he went home.

The next day the witness was told that Mr Timol was in the custody of Sergeant Rodriques before he fell to his death.

Colonel van Wyk denied that he was in charge of the investigation. He said he was not the investigating officer although he was one of the police officers who questioned Mr Timol.

Lieutenant Colonel van Wyk said the interrogation was carried out on the basis of a theory that Mr Timol and Mr Essop were collaborators.

At this point Mr Maisels put to the officer that "something happened to Mr Essop the day before Mr Timol fell to his death."

The colonel's reply was: "I know that Mr Essop was taken to hospital."

Mr Maisels then referred to a document said to have been drawn up by Mr Timol after his arrest. "One might call it an organisation chart, showing communist headquarters in London and a cell headed by the deceased in South Africa with two people, Mr Essop and Mr I. Moodley, under him."

Mr J. J. L. de Villiers, assisted by a pathologist, Professor I. W. Simson, is on the Bench. Evidence is being led by the Deputy Senior Public Prosecutor, Mr P. A. J. Kotze, with him Mr A. Beukes.

Mr I. A. Maisels, QC, with him Mr G. Bizos, is representing the Timol family, and Mr S. A. Cilliers is appearing for the police.

ser, said he was satisfied Ngudle had died by hanging; he had found no other