Timol kon vry man wees ná ‚revolusie-inligting'

NADAT Ahmed Essop Timol aan die Veiligheidspolisie gesê het dat hy weet „hy sal minstens 20 jaar tronkstraf kry," is daar aan hom gesê dat indien hy hulle vertel van 'n beweerde revolusie in Suid-Afrika, hy as 'n vry man kan uitstap.

Kapt. J. Z. van Niekerk, het hierdie antwoord vanoggend in kruisverhoor deur mnr. G. Bizos (namens die Timol-gesin) verstrek in die geregtelike ondersoek na die dood van dié 30-jarige Roodepoortse Indiëronderwyser.

Timol is op 27 Oktober verlede jaar dood nadat hy uit 'n venster op die tiende verdieping van John Vorsterplein geval het.

Mnr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., is nie vandag by die hof teenwoordig nie aangesien daar dood in sy familie is. Mnr. Bizos lei die kruisondervraging namens die Timol-gesin. Die meer formele getuienis sal vandag gelewer word.

Tronkstraf

Die landdros, mnr. J. J. L. de Villiers, word bygestaan deur 'n assessor, dr. I. W. Simpson.

Volgens kapt. Van Niekerk het Timol verskeie kere aan hulle gesê dat hy weet hy gaan 20 of 25 jaar tronkstraf kry. By een spesifieke geleentheid het hy aan kapt. Van Niekerk gesê:

„Al wat julle moet doen is dat die aanklaer die dokumente een na die ander by die hof moet indien en ek sal minstens 20 jaar kry."

Kapt. Van Niekerk het geantwoord: „Kry die idee so gou as moontlik uit jou kop. Hier kan 'n revolusie in die land broei waarvan jy weet. As jy dié inligting gee, kan jy more 'n vry man wees."

Mnr. Bizos het vanogged aan kapt. Van Niekerk gesê dat daar twee vrae aan Timol gestel is nadat hy sy aantekeninge voltooi het.

Mislei

„Die vraag oor wie hom behulpsaam was in Suid-Afrika, is 'n paar keer gevra en julle het geweet dat hy nie die waarheid praat nie — dat hy julle probeer mislei!"

Mnr. Bizos: „Hy het herhaaldelik aan julle 'n valse antwoord gegee en dit moés 'n reaksie uit gelok het."

Kapt. Van Niekerk: „Inteendeel. Hy het baie, baie waardevolle inligting oor homself en ondervraer streng is en die ander een meer menslik?"

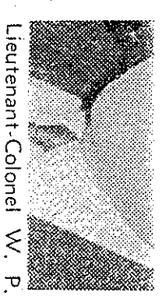
Kapt. Van Niekerk: „Dit mag miskien so wees, maar daar is geen beter metode as om kalm en bedaard te wees nie."

Spoor

Mnr. Bizos het verder aan kapt. Van Niekerk gevra of die persoon wat as „E" in een van die briewe aan Timol geteken het dieselfde persoon is wat as „International" in 'n ander brief geteken het.

Kapt. Van Niekerk het geantwoord dat dit so is en dat hy gretig was om International op te spoor. Timol het aan hom gesê dat International saam met Quentin Jacobsen oorsee gegaan het en dat dit een van die redes was waarom hy meer van hom wou weet. International sou hom na Quentin Jacobsen lei. Mnr. Bizos: „Die rede hoekom Timol aan jou gesê het dat Quentin 'n Kleurling is, kan tweërlei van aard wees. Dit kan wees:

- Dat Quentin 'n medepligtige is en hy hom wou beskerm, of
- dat hulle net vriende was en Timol nie wou hê dat 'n onskuldige persoon in hegtenis geneem word ingevolge art. 6 van die Wet op Terrorisme nie."



Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. van Wyk . . . the senior interrogator.

Timol was sitting at the table "completely at ease".

He was on the ninth floor when told that "Timol had jumped". He immediately went down to the ground floor. Timol was lying on the ground with his legs spread. One shoe had fallen off. He accompanied the body to the Government Buys.

These were made to "refresh his memory."

Mr. Bizos: You realise, as an experienced police officer that notes made shortly after an occurrence or contemporaneous notes are of value to the courts and others interested in the happenings"

Captain Van Niekerk: That may be, but I did not regard it as necessary.

His notes took up about four or five pages, he said. He made them on the day after the occurrence.

Mr. Bizos: On the 28th there was already public disquiet about the occurrence?

Captain Van Niekerk: Might be. It made no difference to me.

He expected that he would have to give evidence about the incident at some future date, he said.

He "threw the notes into the wastepaper basket," Captain Van Niekerk said.

Mr. Bizos: Not even children in standard 4 would write notes out and then throw them into the wastepaper basket. Why, having wasted your time making notes, did you throw them into the wastepaper basket?

Captain Van Niekerk: I did not think them necessary.

When he later had an interview with General Buys he wrote down a statement as he dictated. Captain Van Niekerk said. He destroyed his initial notes after dictating this statement.

He did not know what happened to this statement.

Mr. Bizos: I am going to put it to you that between these statements there was a substantial change of front as to how Timol met his death.

Mr. Cilliers: I object. This is a fishing expedition.

Mr. Bizos asked Captain Van Niekerk if he read a public statement made by General Buys which appeared in Rapport of October 30.

"He could not remember, Captain Van Niekerk said.

He talked to Sgt. Rodriques on the afternoon of Mr. Timol's death.

Captain Van Niekerk then gave a version similar to that of Captain Gloy, adding that Sgt. Rodriques had said that he himself had first wanted to move from the left around the table, but then moved to the right and failed to intercept nothing abnormal about his speech at any time, although he was normally "a soft-spoken man". As far as he could remember he did not cough.

"Timol was a very valuable find for us," he said. "Had he not died he would have become even more valuable later on. We might have got more information from him.

Captain Van Niekerk said that on the morning of Mr. Timol's death he looked fresh and not tired. He never complained about pain. He looked comfortable and happy. He made a few requests, asked to brush his teeth and go to the toilet, he said.

Mr. Bizos asked Captain Van Niekerk to assume that the State in the Jacobsen case did not allege that he and Mr. Timol were co-conspirators and that there had been nothing, but social contact between the two.

Mr. De Villiers: This is an opinion. I don't think Captain Van Niekerk can answer that.

Captain Van Niekerk: I thought they were co-conspirators.

Mr. Bizos: You were wrong, Mr. Jacobsen was acquitted.

Mr. Bizos: Subsequent events have showed that Mr. Timol could not possibly have been shocked by the news that Mr Jacobsen was arrested. This is a terribly relevant factor. It has been put before you that a man sitting comfortably on a chair was so shocked by this news that he jumped through the window. We are entitled to examine this theory.

Mr. De Villiers: Up to now I have allowed you all the latitude. I think I have been fair. But as far as I'm concerned it has to be proved. The witness cannot explain his actions in the light of later events.

Mr. Bizos: It has been implied that the names Quentin, Martin and Henry were of great importance to the deceased. Subsequent events have shown that Jacobsen did not mean anything in Timol's life. Since he is not here to give us instructions we are entitled to probe the question of whether 'Mr. X' was there at all.

Surprise is a very important weapon in the process of interrogation.

Mr. X would not have known what stage the interrogations had reached. His blurting

● Nog berigte en foto's op bl. 4 en 7

oor die hoofkantoor van die kommuniste in Engeland verskaf."

Mnr. Bizos het verder gesê dat die Veiligheidspolisie wel inligting gehad het dat Timol medepligtiges in Kaapstad, Port Elizabeth en Durban gehad het.

„Jy het dus geweet dat hy vir jou jok en die inligting terughou."

Kapt. Van Niekerk het geantwoord dat Timol dit om redes van sy eie gedoen het. Hy het hulle egter wel gehelp oor verdere belangrike feite vas te stel.

Kwaad

Mnr. Bizos: „Wat doen jy as ondervraer as iemand jou 'n valse antwoord gee?"

Kapt. Van Niekerk: „Dit help nie om kwaad te word nie — geduld is die moeder van wysheid.

Mnr. Bizos: „Is dit ook 'n tegniek van julle dat die een

my dan verskrik-

wat hy aanvang

etuig dat sy hom 961 leer ken het met hom begin Na 'n jaar het 'n tussen hule ont-

Lewend was hy ba

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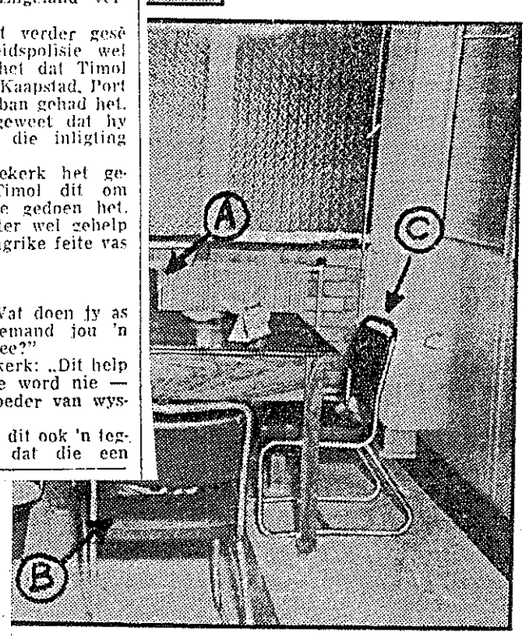

TWEE KAPTEINS van die Veiligheidspolisie wat sowat 31 uur in Timol se geselsk hom gesit en koffie drink het kort voor sy dood, is gister lank deur die regsverteer Timol-gesin ondervra oor die 30-jarige Indiëronderwyser se laaste oomblikke.

Kapt. J. H. Gloy is die hele voormiddag in kruisverhoor geneem deur mnr. I. A. Maisels, QC, (namens die Timol-gesin) in die geregtelike ondersoek na die dood van Ahmed Essop Timol in die Johannesburgse landdroshof.

Timol het op 27 Oktober verlede jaar gesterf toe hy uit 'n venster op die tiende verdieping van John Vorsterplein geval het.

Kapt. Gloy het, toe hy ten slotte 'n paar vrae gevra is deur mnr. S. A. Cilliers (namens die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie), gesê dat Timol vir hulle van baie waarde was.

„Indien hy nie gesterf het nie, kon hy vir ons verdere inligting verskaf het. Daar was nog inligting wat ons van hom wou hê en ons sou dit moontlik later uit hom gekry het," het die kaptein gesê.

Die verklaring wat kapt. J. Z. van Niekerk aan genl. C. A. Buys gedoen het, is ook gister in die hof uitgelees en ingedien as deel van sy getuienis.

Verklaring

In die verklaring het kapt. Van Niekerk gesê dat Timol op 23 Oktober om 6 vm. deur lt.-kol. W. P. van Wyk aan hom en kapt. Gloy oorhandig is

omdat hy bang was vir die lang tyd wat hy in die tronk sou moet deurbring," het kapt. Van Niekerk in die verklaring gesê.

In kruisverhoor deur mnr. G. Bizos (mnr. Maisels se junior) het die kaptein gesê dat hy na Timol se dood notas oor die gebeure gemaak het in die vorm van 'n verklaring. Op die 28e het hy dié notas gemaak.

Hy het erken dat daar toe reeds „'n groot lawaai" oor die hele aangeleentheid was.

Vertel

Kapt. Van Niekerk het verder ook vertel wat sers. Rodriquez aan hom vertel het nadat Timol deur die venster gespring het.

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