

TIMOL IN FEAR OF JAIL

THE STAR

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JAIL — WITNESSES

MR AHMED TIMOL told a police interrogator at John Vorster Square that he feared he might go to jail for 20 years, a witness told Mr J. J. L. de Villiers in the Johannesburg Regional Court today.

A police officer, however, assured him that if he gave information about the alleged developing communist revolution he might become a free man.

Captain J. Z. van Niekerk, of the Security Police, gave this evidence today while being questioned by Mr G. Bizos (for the Timol family), at the inquest into the death of Mr Timol, the 30-year-old school-teacher who plunged to his death from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square, on October 27 last year, while in police custody.

Today is the fourth day of the inquest.

The Captain said: "During the time I spent questioning Mr Timol, there were many jokes between us. At one point I thanked him for the documents we now had in our possession, and he laughed spontaneously."

The witness said that when he was interrogating somebody he tried to win his confidence.

Mr Bizos asked him whether sometimes, when two interrogators were used, one was "a friend" and the other was sterner.

Captain van Niekerk replied that this could happen on occasions. The best method of questioning a person, he added, was to remain "cool, calm and collected."

Mr Bizos then referred to statements by Mr Timol during interrogation and a sketch he is said to have made.

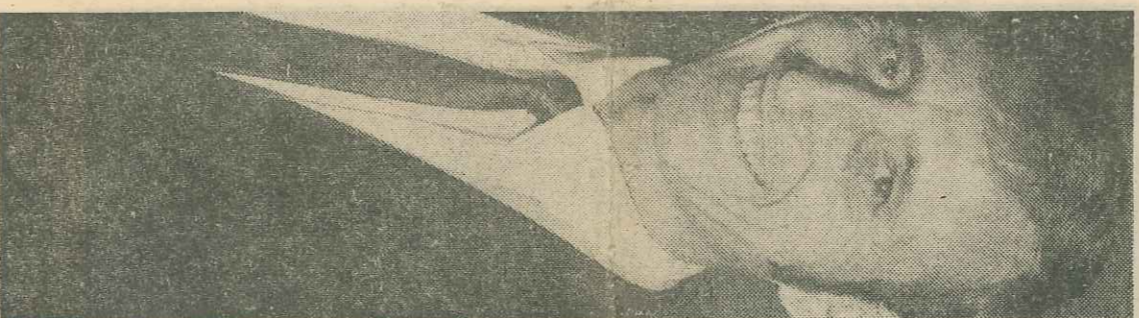
Mentioned, in one of the statements that comprised part of the documents found in Mr Timol's car, was the name "International."

The witness said this person was identified as Mr Ebrahim Laher. He said Mr Timol told him that the person named E in one of the documents was the same person as "International."

"Mr Timol told me this," said the Security Police officer. Questioned further, the witness told the court that he was anxious to trace "International."

He also said Mr Timol told him "International" and the man called Quentin (later identified as Mr Quentin Jacobsen) went overseas together.

This was the reason why the policeman wanted to know more about "International." Captain van Niekerk added



Sergeant J. A. Rodrigues, the security policeman who was the last person to see Mr Ahmed Timol alive. Sergeant Rodrigues was in the tenth floor interrogating room C. John Vorster Square with the detainee when Mr Timol fell from the window.