

# Read and destroy' evidence

Pretoria Bureau

A UNIVERSITY research assistant said today that one of the accused in the Essop trial gave him a Communist Party pamphlet to read and told him to destroy it afterwards.

The witness was Mr K. Chetty. He said he was given the pamphlet, "Inkululeko" ("Freedom"), by Mr Indhrasen Moodley, one of the accused.

Mr. Mohamid Salim Essop (22), Mr Yousuf Hassan Essack (21), Mr Indhrasen Moodley (27), and Mrs Aminah Desai (51), are facing a main count under the Terrorism Act and alternative charges under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts.

The State alleges that the four conspired with the South African Communist Party and/or the African National Congress and/or Mr Ahmed Timol, now dead.

Mr Justice Snyman is hearing the case in the Old Synagogue, Pretoria.

Mr Chetty said he was a research assistant at the University of Durban, Westville. Mr Moodley was a pharmacy lecturer at the university.

Questioned by Mr K. von Lieres, for the State, Mr Chetty said that Mr Moodley gave him the paper to read while he was in Mr Moodley's office.

Mr Chetty said he read the paper, but could not remember the contents very well. Mr Moody had told him to read and destroy it.

Mr von Lieres: who issued the paper? — It was issued by the Communist Party.

He identified a copy of "Inkululeko," a court exhibit, as similar to the one he had been given.

He was not asked later by Mr Moodley whether he had read through the paper. Mr Moodley gave him no reason why he should read it.

Mr J. Browde, SC for Mr Essop, said that he had not had time to prepare for the cross-examination of the witness and asked for a short adjournment. The judge granted the adjournment.

(See also Page 11)



STOP PRESS

# Frightened of police, says Essop witness

Pretoria Bureau

A WITNESS in the Essop trial in Pretoria yesterday claimed that he was afraid of what the police might do to him.

The witness, Mr N. Pahad, also claimed that the police had been harassing him since February.

This was said in evidence at the trial at which Mr Mohamid Salim Essop (22), Mr Yousuf Hassan Essack (21), Mr Indhrasen Moodley (27) and Mrs Aminah Desai (51) are facing a main count under the Terrorism Act and three alternative charges under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts.

The State alleges that the four conspired with the South African Communist Party and/or the banned African National Congress and/or with the dead detainee, Mr Ahmed Timol. Mr Justice Snyman is hear-

ing the case in the Old Synagogue, Pretoria.

Questioned by Mr Lieres (for the State) Pahad said Mr Essop had worked for Inkululeko, the central organ of the South African Communist Party.

Mr Essack told him he worked with Mr Timol on a magazine.

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Mr Pahad qualified several of his answers with the expression "to the best of my knowledge."

Asked by the judge why he did this, he said he was reluctant to give evidence and been subpoenaed. He was certain of the exact circumstances of his conversations with Mr Essack.

Mr Justice Snyman said the witness's evidence would be useless because he kept lying it.

Mr Pahad was asked whether he wanted to give evidence and he said he did.

Questioned further from the bench he said he was afraid to give evidence.

Asked by Mr von Lieres why he was afraid, he replied that he was afraid of what the police might do to him. Since February the police had harassed him.

He said he had been accused of having orgies at his flat while his wife was away. He was also warned by a Security Police officer that he should furnish the names and addresses of two women. He was given an ultimatum to do this, but was unable to do so.

At this stage Mr J. Browde, SC (for Mr Essop) submitted that the prosecutor was cross-examining his own witness. The State did not proceed further.

Cross-examined by Mr Browde, Mr Pahad said some facts were given to him by captain Gloy of the Security Police.

He could not say without doubt whether he remembered things himself or whether they had emerged after he had talked to Captain Gloy.

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