

# Counsel's charge is denied by Essop

Pretoria Bureau

MR M. S. ESSOP, one of the accused in the Pretoria Terrorism Trial, today denied that he had made up some of his evidence as an excuse for his activities on the night he was arrested.

Mr Essop was being cross-examined by Mr J. E. Nothing, SC, who is appearing for the State. Today is Mr Essop's second day in the witness box.

Mr Mohammed Salim Essop (32), Mr Yousof Hassan Essack (21), Mr Indhrasen Moodley (27) and Mrs Aminah Dewai (37) are facing a main charge under the Terrorism Act and alternatives under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts.

The four, all Indians, have pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice Snyman in the Old Synagogue, Pretoria.

## SHOCKED

Mr Essop said that when he heard someone at the roadblock say, "communist pamphlets," he was shocked.

Mr Nothing: When you realised that the boot did not contain books and that you had been wrong, why did you not explain to the police why you thought there were books in the boot?

Mr Nothing was cross-examining Mr Essop on the events of October 22 last year.

Late on that night Mr Essop and Mr Ahmed Timol, who later died while in police detention, were arrested at a roadblock. The car in which they were travelling had hundreds of Communist Party and African National Congress pamphlets in the boot.

Mr Essop had testified that he knew nothing of the pamphlets and that Mr Timol had told him they were going to Vrededorp to a party and to deliver books to a friend.

## EXCUSE

Mr Nothing: Is it not so that you never intended to go to a party, that you made it up as an excuse?

Mr Essop: No.

Mr Essop was driving the car at the time it was stopped. He also opened the boot when asked to do so by the police. Earlier he had testified that he had no trouble opening the boot.

In court today, when handed a bunch of keys handed in as a court exhibit, Mr Essop was unable to pick out the ignition key or the boot key. When the boot was opened he saw "something wrapped in

newspapers."

He said he thought at the time that the parcels could have been the books Mr Timol had spoken about.

Mr Essop said that Mr Timol had told him not to reply to questions to which he did not know the answers. He said that Mr Timol said something dreadful had happened, but whatever happened it was not the concern of Mr Essop.

Mr Essop told the court that his shocked silence after the pamphlets were found was one of the reactions of an innocent person. He did not agree that an innocent person would immediately start explaining his innocence to the police.

Earlier Mr Essop testified that he and Mr Timol had been drinking earlier that evening and that they had left the bar about 25 minutes before reaching the roadblock.

He did not know why police manning the roadblock had said they smelled no alcohol on Mr Timol's breath. Mr Essop denied Mr Nothing's suggestion that the two had not, in fact, been drinking that night.

Mr Nothing said that he had information that if the person who was alleged to have had a party in Vrededorp on October 22 were called to court, he would deny that he had a party that night.

Mr Nothing changed his line of cross-examination to the list of names and addresses found in Mr Essop's room.

Mr Essop had testified that Mr Timol had given him these and offered him money if he would type the names and addresses on to envelopes. Mr Timol said this was for his mail order business.

Mr Essop said he was studying for end-of-year examinations at the time and was working hard. He did not have much time for his normal interests such as photography and art. He added, though, that the fee Mr Timol would pay would be useful as pocket money.

Mr Nothing suggested that typing addresses on envelopes was not a usual form of relaxation while studying and Mr Essop replied that it was "less laborious" than swotting.

# Poem was an 'invitation to fight' says Essop

Pretoria Bureau

MR MOHAMED SALIM ESSOP said today at the Pretoria terrorism trial that the title of a poem given to him by Mr Ahmed Timol was an "invitation to fight."

Mr Essop, one of the accused in the case, was being questioned on the poem, "Fight You Must," by Mr J. E. Nothing, SC, for the State.

This is Mr Essop's third day in the witness box.

Mr Essop, who was given the poem by Mr Timol who later died in police detention, disagreed with Mr Nothing's suggestion that the poem's title was an "exhortation to violence."

To him it was rather an "invitation to fight," he said.

The poem opens with the line, "Black, black, blue." It also contains the lines, "Changes are coming, and 'Who cares, who dares,' and 'I am in Africa, weapons in my car.'"

An analysing the poem, Mr Essop said the first two lines suggested that "Life was not very satisfactory."

The poem went on to ask whether the reader was concerned about the dissatisfaction in his life.

Later the poem talked of changes and it appeared to suggest that speaking alone would not bring about change.

The last two lines, said Mr Essop, suggested that a "violent movement was occurring in Africa."

Mr Essop said Mr Timol told him the poem came from London and was the type of poetry people wrote when they became frustrated.

Mr Essop wrote the poem out and gave one copy to Mr T. Naik, a former State witness.

(Yesterday's evidence, Page 9.)