

Essop afraid of being harassed

Pretoria Bureau

MR M. S. ESSOP did not take a Communist Party pamphlet, which he found in his post, to the police because he was afraid they would "harass" him.

Mr Mohamed Salim Essop (22) said this while being cross-examined at the terrorism trial in Pretoria today.

He said this had been general talk among many people. When asked by the cross-examiner, Mr J. E. Nothing, SC, for the State, to name one of the people who had told him this, Mr Essop could not. Mr Essop said the pamphlet he received was entitled "Inkululeko," an organ of the South African Communist Party.

Mr Essop, a medical student; Mr Yousuf Hassan Essack, a 21-year-old clerk; Mr Indhrasen Moodley (27), a university lecturer and Mrs Amina Desai, a businesswoman, are facing a charge under the Terrorism Act and alternatives under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts.

All have pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice Snyman in the Old Synagogue, Pretoria.

POEM

Earlier, starting his third day in the witness-box, Mr Essop said the title of a poem, "Flight You Must," given him by Mr Ahmed Timol, was an "invitation to fight."

He disagreed with Mr Nothing's suggestion that it was an "exhortation to violence."

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 he met Mr "Hookah International" Laher at a cinema in August last year.

Mr Laher gave him some dagga to give to Mr Timol. Mr Essop said he was afraid to keep the dagga at his home, so he approached Mr T. Naik and asked him if he would keep it. Mr Naik refused. Mr

Essop said he knew Mr Timol smoked dagga.

Mr Nothing: I want to suggest a reason why you approached Mr Naik with the dagga. You were in fact testing his reliability as a possible recruit for your organisation.

Mr Essop: There is no truth in that and I know of no organisation.

Mr Essop said the copy of "Inkululeko" he received through the post, he found "abhorrent."

He had read about a "violent revolution" in the document and he disapproved of its favouring communism.

He did not take it to the police because he had heard that if he did, they would harass him.

(Proceedings)

RAND DAILY MAIL, Saturday, August 5, 1972.

Timol used dagga regularly, Essop tells terror trial

THE ESSOP TRIAL

STAFF REPORTER

MIR. AHMED TIMOL, the Rodepoort schoolteacher who fell to his death from the tenth floor of John Vorster Square in October last year, smoked dagga regularly, the terrorism trial in Pretoria's Old Synagogue heard yesterday.

This was said by Mr. Mo-hammed Essop, who is appearing before Mr Justice Snyman with Mr. Yousuf Hassan Essack, a clerk, Mr. Indhrasen Moodley, a pharmacy lecturer at the University of Durban Westville, and Mrs. Amina Desai, a Rodepoort business-woman, on charges under the Suppression of Communism and Terrorism Acts.

Cross-examined by Mr. J. E. Nothing, SC (for the State), Mr. Essop was asked to explain the events leading to an incident last year when he asked a State witness, Mr. T. Naik, to hide dagga for him.

Mr. Essop said in August last year, a friend, Mr. Laher, had approached him at a cinema in Rodepoort. Mr. Laher asked Mr. Essop to deliver a small parcel of dagga to Ahmed Timol. Mr. Essop had agreed to do it.

Mr. Nothing: Did Ahmed Timol smoke dagga regularly?

Mr. Essop: Yes. And did you smoke dagga? — No.

Mr. Essop said he knew it was unlawful to possess or supply dagga to someone. He told the court he did not approve of others smoking dagga and would not assist anyone in obtaining dagga.

Mr. Nothing: Why then, under these circumstances, did you agree to give Timol the dagga?

Mr. Essop: I only did so because Laher asked me to do him a favour.

Replying to a question, Mr. Essop said he had approached his friend, Mr. T. Naik, to hide the dagga for him as he was experiencing "domestic dangers" at home. He did not want

kind of thing was being sent to people through the post."

Mr. Nothing: Then why did you not go to the police and show them what you received?

Mr. Essop: I was afraid of being harassed. I had heard that the police harassed people who had illegal things in their possession, even when they voluntarily went to the police.

Mr. Essop said he had not destroyed the publication. He had forgotten about it and "did not give it serious attention."

Mr. Nothing: But it merited serious attention. It was an underground journal of the South African Communist Party and contained a call to violent revolution. You must have realised it was a dangerous thing to have in your possession. — I forgot about it.

Mr. Essop said he had not shown the publication to anybody. He discussed it with Mr. Timol and a friend. He told Mr. Timol he found it strange that such a thing should be sent to him as he was against communism.

He had known Mr. Timol was favourably disposed toward communism "but he never advocated it being put into practice in any country."

Earlier, Mr. Essop was asked to explain a poem which he is alleged to have written. He said the poem asked the reader whether he was concerned with the "unsatisfactory state of life."

The poem also talked of changes and that "some sort of violent movement was occurring in Africa". The title of the poem was "An Invitation to Fight."

Mr. Essop said he had written out a copy of the poem from the original one night last year. He had given the copy to Mr. Naik. He had not been aware of the full meaning of

that he was exposed by communist agents? — Yes.

Mr. Nothing: And that it was proved that he worked for the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. — Yes.

Mr. Nothing: Do you agree that in order to achieve success he had to win people over to his way of thinking? — I gathered that when I read the exhibits.

Mr. Nothing: He had to convince people that communism was the ideal system for South Africa? — Yes.

Mr. Nothing: And the only way place to start would be with his friends? — Yes. If you want to put it that way.

Mr. Nothing: Do you agree that he would have needed friends to assist him. — Yes, in the sense that everyone needs friends.

Mr. Nothing: You were one of his friends? — Yes. Cross-examiner further, the accused said that Mr. Timol did not try to win him over. "He did not propagate communism."

The accused said he was not anxious for a change in South Africa. "I saw there was a need for a change but I did not think of involving myself actively in any way. I hoped there would be a change but I was not prepared to assist in bringing about a change," said Mr. Essop.

Mr. Nothing then read from a letter Mr. Timol allegedly wrote to the South African Communist Party. Under the heading "recruiting" Mr. Timol recommended Mr. Essop. In his letter Timol said Mr. Essop was highly conscious of political life.

Essop stands down

Pretoria Bureau

SENIOR STATE COUNSELLOR at the Terrorism Act trial, Mr J. E. Nothing, SC, yesterday closed his cross-examination of Mr M. S. Essop and the hearing was adjourned until Tuesday.

Mr Mohamed Salim Essop (22), Mr Yousuf Hassan Essack (21), Mr Indhrasen Moodley (27), and Mrs Amina Desai are charged with alternatives under the Act and the Suppression of Communism Act. All have pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice Snyman at the Supreme Court hearing in the Old Synagogue.

Mr Essop has been in the witness box three days.

Near the end of the cross-examination, Mr Nothing asked Mr Essop about the Islamic way of living which he said he favoured.

Mr Essop said he was not advocating this system as an alternative to the system in South Africa.

One of the principles of the Islamic system was charity. Islam abhorred the hoarding of wealth and wealth was fairly distributed, Mr Essop said. It could not work in South Africa as he could not see everybody in the country becoming Moslems.

EQUIPMENT

Mr Nothing then cross-examined Mr Essop on his buying photographic equipment.

He said that Mr Essop's father was a general dealer but Mr Essop had not approached him to try to get the goods wholesale and had rather obtained wholesale prices elsewhere.

Mr Essop said he had not approached his father because this would have caused "bother" and because his father did not trade with any photographic dealers.

Before the adjournment Mr J. Browde SC, for Essop, Essack and Moodley, said that on Monday he would like to consult with Mr Essack and Mr Moodley.

Facilities at the prison were "primitive," he said. The judge consented that he consult with them at the Old Synagogue.