

Mitchell slams Security Police

# ACTIONS ARE A THREAT TO STATE

Own Correspondent

DURBAN.

THE UNCONTROLLED ACTIONS of the South African Security Police are potentially as dangerous to democracy as the acts of terrorism being committed against the country, according to Mr Michael Mitchell, the United Party shadow Minister of Justice.

Commenting in Durban today on the Prime Minister's refusal to appoint a commission of inquiry into the death of the Indian detainee, Mr Ahmed Timol, he said it appeared that the Security Police were being allowed to operate without any form of ministerial control.

"This is potentially as dangerous to democracy in South Africa as is terrorism and subversion. If it is allowed to continue it will eat at the very basis of democracy," Mr Mitchell said.

"The people want the Security Police to fight subversion because they value democracy and want it protected against subversive attacks."

"But the very people charged with the protection of our democratic system are now endangering the system themselves."

"The Prime Minister is showing incredible insensitivity to the disquiet and unease of the people by refusing to have the whole matter investigated."

Mr Mitchell said Mr Vorster had also failed to tell the public why the people detained by the Security Police were being held in terms of Section 6 of the Terrorism Act and not under Section 22 of the General Laws Amendment Act.

"Under Section 22, the police are forced to bring a detainee before a judge of the Supreme Court within 14 days. The judge has the power to order his release or determine the conditions under which the detainee is to be held.

"Parliament never intended Section 6 to be used in the urban areas where judges are

always available so that Section 22 can be used.

"Section 6 of the Terrorism Act was expressly intended for use on the borders of our country."

"The Prime Minister's snide asides and insinuations are most unfortunate and will only convince people even more that a proper explanation is needed."

Anger and concern, at home and overseas, continues to mount following the death of Mr Timol, and the Prime Minister's refusal to agree to a judicial inquiry into his death. In spite of extensive cover-

age of the Common Market issue and the continued trouble in Northern Ireland, the death of Mr Timol and Mr Vorster's refusal continue to feature prominently in the British Press and on television and radio.

Mr Vorster's rejection of demands for a judicial inquiry is carried today in front-page articles in both the Times and the Guardian and was included in television and radio news bulletins last night.

The Times report refers the reader to a leading article entitled "Police terrorism in South Africa." It is the second leader in a major British daily on the question of detainees in South Africa since Mr Timol's death.

Referring to the demand for a public inquiry which, it says, was made with "unusual vigour," the leader suggests that many White South Africans — perhaps most — are "becoming alarmed as they see that, unchecked, it (police power) can be directed towards themselves, as well as of colour.

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## Prayer appeal

AN appeal was made today to people of all denominations to attend a prayer meeting in Johannesburg tomorrow commemorating the death in detention of Mr Ahmed Timol.

The hour-long meeting will begin at 2 pm at the Indian Sports Ground in Vrededorp, near the corner of Krause and 17th streets.

"We would especially appeal to other members of the community to come along—they will be most welcome," said Mrs M. Coovadia, a member of the Johannesburg Moslem community.

She said that although Moslem men and women did not normally pray together they would do so tomorrow because of the special nature of the occasion.