



Mr. Yussuf Timol, father of Mr. Ahmed Timol who died in detention at John Vorster Square, at yesterday's inquest

Court packed for Timol inquest

Staff Reporter

A LARGE crowd of people of different races, including high-ranking police officers, an American consular observer and numerous newsmen filled one of the largest courtrooms in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday for the Ahmed Timol inquest.

The inquiry into the death of Mr. Ahmed Essop Timol, 30, a Rooдеpoort teacher, who fell from the tenth floor of John Vorster Square while in the hands of the Security Police, was postponed pending the outcome of an application to the Supreme Court by counsel for the Timol family.

OBSERVER

No evidence was heard. The postponement came after Mr. I. A. Maisels, QC, had been refused permission by the presiding Regional Magistrate, Mr. J. J. L. de Villiers, to study the inquest file. Mr. Maisels said he wanted to test this ruling in the Supreme Court.

Proceedings concerning the

application lasted almost an hour and a half.

The public gallery for Non-Whites was packed with Indians including Mr. Timol's parents, grey-haired and bearded Mr. Yussuf Timol, 65, and Mrs. Hava Timol, 58, and relatives, including more than 20 from the Eastern Transvaal.

Newsmen of all the South African Press groups lined the benches on either side of the courtroom, and the overseas press was represented, to report the proceedings.

An observer from the diplomatic corps was the political and labour officer at the American Consulate-General, Mr. E. J. McHale.

Johannesburg's Senior Public Prosecutor, Mr. D. W. Kothwell, represented the State, with Mr. A. Benkes, the prosecutor who usually handles inquests in Johannesburg.

The State team was accompa-

nied by members of the Security Police, and Major-General C. A. Buys, Chief of the CID, who is the investigating officer in the matter, and Lieutenant-General D. A. Bester, Senior Deputy Executive of the South African Police.

FAMILY

Other officers present including Colonel A. B. Huisamen of the commercial branch, John Vorster Square, Colonel Len van Rensburg, head of the special squad at Johannesburg police headquarters, and Major J. F. C. Fiek, of the CID, who assisted with the investigation.

The date at which the inquiry is to proceed is still to be fixed. Mr. Maisels said yesterday that the Supreme Court application would probably only be heard in January next year.

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