

ESSOP'S DESCRIBE TWO ARRESTS

By BOB HITCHCOCK

THE ESSOP family, of Roodepoort, told me last night how their happiness was shattered last weekend—the weekend of the Security Police raids.

"I'll be back in five minutes,"

With these words Mr. Mohammed Essop, 21, walked out of his comfortable family home at 10 Smal Street, Roodepoort, at 7.30 pm last Friday.

"Fine," replied his mother, Mrs. Hawa Essop, "we'll have some supper ready for you."

Mohammed Essop did not return for supper. In fact, he has not been home since.

The first inkling the Essop family had that Mohammed might be in trouble with the police came at 3 am the next morning when Security Police were swooping on many other homes in the Transvaal and Natal.

SEARCH

Mrs. Essop said: "There were three policemen, all in plain clothes. They walked into the lounge and sat for a moment looking around. Then one of them asked where Mohammed's bedroom was."

"They searched it. I can't remember from taking anything away. Before they went, I said: 'Where is Mohammed?'"

"One of the policemen replied that they didn't know where Mohammed was."

The next day at 3 am, three plain-clothes policemen visited the Essop home for the second time.

TORCHES

In Fatima's room are three beds. In the early hours of that Sunday morning Fatima was sleeping in one, her son Mohammed Fazer, aged seven, was in another and the youngest of the Essop daughters, Hajira, 22, was in the third.

According to the Essop daughter, who was recounting the circumstances of the police raid, the police entered the bedroom shining torches and later switched on the light.

Then each of the policemen sat on a bed. One of them spoke to Fatima. She sat up in bed, shaking with fear.

Mrs. Essop said: "The police told her to get out of bed and go with them. Fatima started to sob, so did Hajira. Little Mohammed Fazer pleaded with the policeman.

"Please don't take my mommy away", he kept saying. We were all weeping by then.

Fatima refused to get into a car with the policemen, who eventually agreed to Fatima's father, Mr. Ismail Essop, driving her to John Vorster Square under escort.

Doctor quiet

on

Timol autopsy

Staff Reporter

DR. JONATHAN GLUCKMAN, a private pathologist who attended the 3-hour post-mortem yesterday of Ahmed Timol, 30, a police detainee who fell from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square police headquarters, would give no impressions of the post-mortem, saying his findings would take several weeks.

He said he had nothing to add to an earlier statement that the post-mortem had been carried out with the full assistance and co-operation of the authorities.

From the pathologists position, the investigation was still far from complete, and would take some weeks.

REQUEST

Dr. Gluckman was present at the post-mortem on Mr. Timol on behalf of the Timol family. Both the District Surgeon of Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand, and the Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer, Brigadier Alwyn Burger, acceded to the request of the family to allow Dr. Gluckman to take part.

The post-mortem was conducted from 7.30 am yesterday by Dr. N. J. Scheepers, and Dr. Gluckman. Dr. Scheepers is head of the department of forensic medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand, and is officer in charge of the Government legal medical laboratories in Johannesburg.

Dr. Gluckman said a number of assistants were also present at the post-mortem. They included police doctors and district surgeons.

WAITED

fam