

# ESSOP STILL IN BOX

## Questions on poem, cameras

Pretoria Bureau

MR MOHAMED SALIM ESSOP (22), yesterday denied that photographic equipment in his possession was to be used for propaganda.

Mr Essop is one of four Indians who have pleaded not guilty to a charge under the Terrorism Act and to alternative charges under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts.

The others are Mr Yousuf Hassan Essack (21), Mr Indharsen Moodley (27) and Mrs Aminna Desai.

Mr J. E. Nothing SC, for the State, read to Mr Essop from a document which had been handed in as a court exhibit.

The extract was headed: "The primary purpose of purchasing a s i n g photographic equipment."

Pictures were to be taken of the "injustice and suffering inflicted on our people by the enemy," and of "enemy installations with emphasis on vital military and industrial installations" and the equipment was also to be used for forging documents.

### KNEW NOTHING

Mr Essop said he knew nothing of any of these alleged objectives.

Mr Nothing also referred to a discussion group which included Mr Essop, Mr Ahmed Timol (who subsequently died while in police detention), and a former witness at the trial, Mr T. Naik.

A poem given to Mr Essop by Mr Timol also came in for examination yesterday afternoon.

Entitled "Fight You Must," it contained the lines, "I am in Africa, weapons in my car."

Mr Nothing asked Mr Essop what he thought when he first read the poem.

Mr Essop replied that the "suggestion of violence was here."

Mr Nothing asked why Mr Essop had not questioned Mr Timol about this poem, seeing that violence was abhorrent to him.

Mr Essop replied that it was poetry and he had not fully grasped the context of the violence which was suggested.

(Proceedings)

## Interrogation is described by Essop

Pretoria Bureau

MR MOHAMED SALIM

ESSOP today told the Terrorism Act trial in Pretoria of interrogation by the police after he and Mr Ahmed Timol were arrested at a roadblock.

MR ESSOP said he was not nervous of the police inspecting the boot of a car he was driving and in which hund-

reds of communist and African National Congress pamphlets were found.

Mr Essop, one of the accused in the Terrorism Act trial, was being re-examined by his senior defence counsel, Mr J. Browde SC.

Today is Mr Essop's fourth day in the witness box. He was being re-examined on the events of October 22 last year when he and Mr Ahmed Timol were arrested after being stopped in the car which contained the pamphlets.

Mr Timol later died in police detention.

### BOOKS

Today's proceedings started nearly half an hour late.

Mr Essop (22), a medical student, Mr Yousuf Hassan Essack (21), a clerk, Mr Indharsen Moodley (27), a lecturer, and Mrs Aminna Desai (51), a businesswoman, are facing a main charge under the Terrorism Act and alternatives under the Act and the Suppression of Communism Act.

The four Indians have all pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice Shyman at the Supreme Court hearing in the Old Synagogue.

Mr Essop said he told the police he thought there were books in the boot, because Mr Timol had told him this was so.

He asked Mr Timol for an explanation, and Mr Timol said a dreadful thing had happened to him.

At the time Mr Essop did not think he was guilty of anything.

Earlier Mr Essop told the court he and Mr Timol were on their way to a party in Vrededorp when they were stopped.

It was suggested to him that, according to this story, they would have arrived at the party about 11 pm. Was this not too late for such a party?

Mr Essop replied that some of these parties went on till about 4 am.

Mr Browde asked Mr Essop about his interrogation by the police.

### NOT SATISFIED

Mr Essop said he was taken into a room at the police station after the roadblock and was asked to tell the police all he knew about where he and Mr Timol were going. He said he told them, but they were not satisfied.

"I won't say anything about the assaults," he added.

Later at John Vorster Square, the interrogation continued. The police were not satisfied with his replies and warned him that the consequences "would be terrible."

He said he realised this.

He had given Mr Timol no reason to believe that he (Mr Essop) was a potential recruit for the Communist Party.

Mr Timol also knew Mr Essop's attitude to violence and communism.

### ILL IN BED

The second State witness, Miss Rashida Mangera, a third-year medical student at the University of the Witwatersrand, said she knew Mr Essop. He and Mr Timol, whom she also knew, came to visit her on the night of October 22 last year, the night of their arrest. She was ill in bed. She remembered the date because it was her 21st birthday.

During the second half of last year, Mr Essop mentioned to her that he had received a communist pamphlet through the post.

"He was very upset at this," said Miss Rashida.

Cross-examined by Mr J. E. Nothing SC, for the State, Miss Rashida said Mr Timol had been her schoolteacher.

(Proceedings)