

# Police keep a blanket silence

Staff Reporter

POLICE are maintaining a blanket silence on who they are holding under the Terrorism Act's detention clause, following the recent mass raids by the Security Police.

The Commissioner of Police, General Gideon Joubert yesterday refused to release the names and number of those held. He gave an assurance that investigations were being carried out "with all possible speed."

"Court appearances will be made as soon as possible," he added. The general also refused permission for the Rand Daily Mail to photograph the inside of the room from which the young Indian detainee, Mr. Ahmed Timol, allegedly fell to his death.

## THUD

The head of the Security Police, Major-General P. J. Venter, was again unavailable at his Pretoria office for comment on the detentions and Mr. Timol's death.

African employees of a Commission Street garage, near John Vorster Square, police headquarters, said yesterday they had heard a thud about 4 pm last Wednesday and saw a crowd gather round a body outside the building.

Meanwhile, protests against the death of Mr. Timol and the principle of detention without trial continue. The United Party office in Johannesburg yesterday received about 25 telegrams calling for the ending of detentions. The telegrams are being sent to the Leader of the Opposition, Sir De Villiers Graaff.

## PRAYERS

The United Party shadow Minister of Justice, Mr. Michael Mitchell, told the Rand Daily Mail's Political Correspondent yesterday that he would press for the repeal of section six of the Terrorism Act which permits detentions.

Special prayers were said at Durban's Grey Street mosque for Mr. Timol, a hadji who had completed his pilgrimage to Mecca.

There are rumours among Durban Indians that another detainee, Miss Fatima Wadee, had attempted to hang herself. However, the head of the Security Police in Durban, Colonel F. Steenkamp, said Miss Wadee was well.

In an interview with the Nationalist mouthpiece, Die Burger, yesterday, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Peltser, said the police had the fullest right to use their discretion as to which laws should be invoked to detain people.

# 40 Miles a Day to School

SUNDAY TIMES Reporter  
NEARLY 1,800 Indian

scholars, aged between six and 16, have to travel more than 40 miles to school and back each day. And 19 high school students have to travel more than 80 miles a day.

The Transvaal Education Department has built two new Indian schools at Lenasia, 22 miles south-west of Johannesburg.

Of the 1,800 pupils who will attend them, only about 50 live at Lenasia, the area set aside for Indians by the Group Areas Board.

The 15 schools in the city, which cater for 10,000 Indian children, are full.

## Offer Refused

The Indian community has offered to spend between £50,000 and £100,000 on school buildings but, they say, the Education Department has refused to allow existing buildings to be enlarged or new ones to be built near them. The department plans to build two more schools at Lenasia.

But it has closed several schools in the Johannesburg area.

The Booyse High School, 600 pupils, is now a store for the Public Works Department. The Kiptown Junior School, 300 pupils, has been closed.

Now Indians have been prohibited from attending the Indian and Coloured school at Newclare.

## No Room

The Indian High School in Johannesburg is crowded. It cannot accept students from country schools.

So the 19 who passed Standard 8 at the Waterfall School, near Halfway House, must travel 20 miles to Johannesburg and then 22 miles to Lenasia.

Dr. A. H. du Preez van Wyk, Director of the Transvaal Education Department, said: "At the end of 1958 the enrolment at the Newclare school was 1,650.

*"To relieve this situation, and because Newclare has been declared a Coloured area, Indian pupils in standards 2, 3, 4 and 5 were transferred to Lenasia."*

"Arrangements have been made to take these children to Lenasia by bus."

# THE SECRET DEATH

THE TROUBLE WITH a reflex defence of the Security Police is that it simply does not reassure anyone. The Prime Minister made a particular point last week of saying that the procedure required by law in the case of death had always been complied with, and always would be, and so there was no need for a special judicial commission.

In the case of unnatural death, the procedure is that there must be an inquest which is open to the public. This being so, how does the Government explain the case of the unknown detainee?

He was one of 17 who are known to have died in detention. His death — on an undisclosed date of an unknown cause — was mentioned in Parliament two years ago by the Minister of Justice, who offered no more details, not even a name. If the "procedure required by law" was complied with, why did he not provide the information the law says the public is entitled to? If an inquest were not held, the police must have been satisfied that death was natural. But why wouldn't the Minister tell us even that? And what kind of a system is it anyway that allows the identity of a dead detainee to be kept secret for years?

# The Star

## How to rescue security

"THE public must take notice of the fact that our enemies will in future want to undermine us with greater hatred and venom than ever before. Between them and us stand the police."

THUS Mr Vorster, in the course of a statement yesterday on the recent police activities.

He is quite right. But he could have gone further. He could have said that anyone, including the police, who uses totalitarian methods, bullying or torture, or dishes out racial injustices or indignities, turns the people against the State and helps South Africa's enemies.

Besides, it ought not to be just the police who stand between our enemies and us.

There ought to be a great reservoir of inter-racial and intergroup goodwill and loyalty too.

In fact there is such a reservoir. One can see it operating in all sorts of ways. In the co-operation among race groups at work, despite disparities and artificial barriers. In personal crises. Even in the imposed political systems.

And it is evident in the very fact that so many people are trying to prevent the security system from alienating the people from the State.

Mr Vorster, with monumental misunderstanding, calls it "inciting feelings against the police." It is nothing of the kind. It is a desperate attempt to rescue the residual confidence and concord among the different peoples here which is South Africa's most dependable shield.