

INQUEST INTO TIMOL DEATH BEGINS AFTER LONG DELAY

STAFF REPORTER

THE INQUEST into the death of Mr. Ahmed Essop Timol begins today—after a delay of almost five months.

The 30-year-old Roodepoort teacher fell to his death from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, last October while in Security Police custody.

The inquest was initially set down for December 1 last year, but at the start of proceedings, Mr. I. A. Maisels, QC, for the Timol family, applied for access to documents in the case.

The magistrate, Mr. J. J. L. de Villiers, refused the application.

RULING

The inquest was adjourned to obtain a Supreme Court decision on whether the Timol family should have access to the documents concerning their son's death.

On January 28 the Supreme Court set aside the magistrate's decision to refuse access, but ruled the magistrate was entitled to use his discretion "in the light of his judgment" as to the extent of access.

The Assistant Senior Prosecutor, Mr. P. A. J. Kotze, will lead evidence for the State. The hearing is expected to last a week.