

London papers attack Vorster — but still see hope

DESPITE Timol's death and Prime Minister Vorster's refusal to hold a judicial inquiry, Times newspaper in London managed to see some hope in the situation.

Commented the Times leader:

"The only hopeful aspect of this horrible business is the humane stand of which the judiciary has shown itself still capable. Mr. Justice Margo's upholding of the appeal of the parents of the injured student in hospital (to stop police torturing and interrogating him) is in the best traditions of the South African courts."

Refusal

The Guardian, however, found the whole

matter deeply disturbing.

"The South African Government consistently refuses to hold judicial inquiries. If they have nothing to hide, why do they not allow the normal processes of judicial inquiry?"

Mr. Vorster's response has been that the Security Police are engaged in a comprehensive and serious investigation connected with terrorism and sabotage.

"In the process persons have been detained for questioning in terms of the legal powers vested in the police for this



● Mr. Vorster . . . upholding law.

purpose by Parliament."

Mr. Vorster said the police would continue with their campaign against

terrorism and sabotage despite agitation by some newspapers and people "to ferment feelings against the police and make their actions suspect."

He said the normal police procedure after a death would be carried out. It, always had been carried out.

"I therefore find no need for appointing a special judicial commission to investigate any particular case."

"Criminals"

His view was not shared by other national leaders.

India's delegate called on the United Nations to deplore the deaths of detainees and to declare those responsible, "criminals".

Dr. Barakat Ahmed said: "The torturing of opponents of apartheid during detention is one of the most disturbing developments in South Africa."

Denounced

He went on: "We cannot treat these deaths as routine events in the brutality of apartheid — they must be denounced and brought to the attention of the world."

"The only crime of these people was to demand freedom and dignity."