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Terrorism Act— 'repeal it'

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The prominent Afrikaans "Sestiger" author, Mr. Andre Brink, said it was imperative that the whole Act be reviewed if South Africa wanted to "salvage the smallest vestige of respectability".

He dismissed the events of the past two weeks as "disgusting and tragic", adding that the Prime Minister appeared to be bent on "identifying himself with the Hitler image".

The leader of the Coloured Labour Party, Mr. Sonny Leon, said his party believed the whole Act should be scrapped. To remove any doubts from the minds of the people the institution of a judicial commission "was a matter of public urgency".

FAILURE

Failure by the Government to set up such a commission would "convince the people that there were good grounds for refusal".

Mr. Mike Mitchell, United Party shadow Minister of Justice, said the matter had become one of vital importance to the country and for this reason he was glad that he had been invited to speak at the party's protest meeting.

Mr. Jabie Bassor MP for Bezuidenhout, said the matter would be raised as early as possible during the next session of Parliament. It was essential to devise a system of continual judicial supervision in cases where people's suspected of subversive activities had to be held for investigation "and questioning."

Mr. Lionel Murray, MP for Green Point, said the Cape region of the party gave its unqualified support to Mr. Mitchell's call for revision of the Act.

Mr. Harry Schwarz, deputy leader of the United Party in the Transvaal, said he opposed subversion and terrorism as much as everyone in the country, but he wanted to deal with the situation "with clean hands."

Brigadier Kurt von Keyserlingk, formerly a senior police officer and now MP for Umlazi, condemned Cabinet Ministers for "evading their duties" in allowing the police to take the blame for carrying out laws of the country.

"The Ministers are a bunch of political cowards hiding behind the police force. They have shown that they are not fit to control the departments under them. The Government has created a Frankenstein by introducing these Draconian laws."

IMPERATIVE

In Durban yesterday, Professor F. E. Stock, principal of the University of Natal, said the Security Police raids on students and staff at his university had a considerable intimidatory effect and may well influence student examination performances.

In a special interdenominational prayer service at St. Albans, Godalming, Surrey, on November 10, the Rev. Dr. J. H. ...

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"A repeal of the Terrorism Act will be disastrous in the present atmosphere of world terrorism," he said, adding that the police, in his view, should always be answerable to the courts.

In an interview yesterday, the General Secretary of the United Party, Senator Bill Horak said public opinion had been aroused as never before at the distressing activities of the Security Police and their condonation by the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice.

A balanced and reasonable Government, which ruled for the benefits of all the people of a country, need never resort to delegating unrestrained power to a special police force, Senator Horak said.

The fact that the Nationalist Government had done this was an indication of its inadequacy and insecurity.

Religious leaders of several denominations in Port Elizabeth will show active disapproval of South African Security Police methods during a day of demonstrations on November 10.

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The Al-Jihaad Islamic Movement, a Cape Town Moslem organisation, issued a statement yesterday, signed by Mr. M. S. Mallie, chairman of its action committee, calling for a "full and public investigation" into the death of Mr. Ahmed Timol, so as to allay public mistrust and dissatisfaction. The one dissenting voice

came from Brigadier Rocco de Villiers, a retired Deputy Commissioner of Police, who said that although he was not in sympathy with Government policy the maintenance of law and order was essential.

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