

DETAINEE'S DEATH

Silence in the face of evil must end

WERE I better able to share the grief of the Timol family I would, as a Christian, do so, as, I feel sure, would all right-thinking people.

It is of little consolation to the parents of Ahmed Timol, but they must know that if the death of their son has helped in any way to alleviate the plight of his people in this land then he did not die in vain.

I did not know Ahmed Timol, but as a mark of the compassion I feel I protest, with all the strength I can muster, at his detention and the curious manner of his death while he was being held by the Security Police.

For too long I, with thousands of my fellow countrymen, have remained silent in the face of tyranny. I shall do so no longer, indeed I dare not, for by my silence I continue to associate myself with the evil of which the death of Ahmed Timol is a manifestation.

In common with most White South Africans, my security has not until now been threatened. But it is foolhardy to believe that the race policies which so adversely affect the lives of all non-Whites and which cause untold misery to millions of them, can continue in their inhumanity and not touch me directly.

Fearful of the consequences which will inevitably follow my continued silence, I demand that a judicial inquiry be appointed to investigate the conditions under which all detainees are held and interrogated. I cannot accept that another detainee has died and that no blame attaches to the Security Police.

The Prime Minister has spoken recently of "a tiger being saddled." It is uncanny that he should have chosen this metaphor, for, if we are threatened

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

by a tiger, the threat lies in the concept and practice of apartheid.

Even more so the threat lies in the actions of a band of men in whose power it rests to secret people away at will.

A great statesman of another age and country also once referred metaphorically to the tiger. He reminded the threatened that it was stupidity to believe that if they gently stroked the tiger, the tiger would eat them last. The lesson is there for all White South Africans heed.

T. R. Scott

Kensington.

Wright is right

BLESS you, Grace Wright, You've made my day.

So someone really cares about our unhappy Zoo animals (The Star, October 22). Surely all animal lovers must welcome your practical suggestions. It would be wonderful to see them put into practice.

(Mrs) K. Charlton

Bryanston.