

hamed Essop, who is appearing before Mr. Justice Snyman with Mr. Yusuf Hassan Essack, a clerk, Mr. Indhrasen Moodley, a pharmacy lecturer at the University of Durban-Westville, and Mrs. Amina Desai, a foodpoort businesswoman, on charges under the Suppression of Communism and Terrorism Acts.

Cross-examined by Mr. J. E. Nothing, SC (for the State), Mr. Essop was asked to explain the events leading to an incident last year when he asked a State witness, Mr. T. Naik, to hide dagga for him.

**Mr. Essop said in August last year, a friend, Mr. Laher, had approached him at a cinema in Fordsburg. Mr. Laher asked Mr. Essop to deliver a small parcel of dagga to Ahmed Timol. Mr. Essop had agreed to do it.**

**Mr. Nothing: Did Ahmed Timol smoke dagga regularly?**  
**Mr. Essop: Yes.**

**And did you smoke dagga? —**

**No.**  
**Mr. Essop said he knew it was unlawful to possess or supply dagga to someone. He told the court he did not approve of others smoking dagga and would not assist anyone in obtaining dagga.**

**Mr. Nothing: Why then, under these circumstances, did you agree to give Timol the dagga?**

**Mr. Essop: I only did so because Laher asked me to do him a favour.**

Replying to a question, Mr. Essop said he had approached his friend, Mr. T. Naik to hide the dagga for him as he was experiencing "domestic dangers" at home. He did not want his parents to find the dagga.  
**Mr. Nothing: So you asked your friend to expose himself to the risks involved because you did not want to take them on yourself?**  
**Mr. Essop: Yes.**

**Mr. Essop agreed that he could have hidden the parcel of dagga which was no larger than a matchbox in the garden of his home or on his person. He agreed it had not been fair to try to involve Mr. Naik in a**

people through the post."  
**Mr. Nothing: Then why did you not go to the police and show them what you received?**  
**Mr. Essop: I was afraid of being harassed. I had heard that the police harassed people who had illegal things in their possession, even when they voluntarily went to the police.**

**Mr. Essop said he had not destroyed the publication. He had forgotten about it and "did not give it serious attention."**

**Mr. Nothing: But it merited serious attention. It was an underground journal of the South African Communist Party and contained a call to violent revolution. You must have realised it was a dangerous thing to have in your possession. — I forgot about it.**  
**Mr. Essop said he had not shown the publication to anybody. He discussed it with Mr. Timol and a friend. He told Mr. Timol he found it strange that such a thing should be sent to him as he was against communism.**

He had known Mr. Timol was favourably disposed toward communism "but he never advocated it being put into practice in any country."

Earlier, Mr. Essop was asked to explain a poem which he is alleged to have written. He said the poem asked the reader whether he was concerned with the "unsatisfactory state of life." The poem also talked of changes and that "some sort of violent movement was occurring in Africa." The title of the poem was "An Invitation to Fight."

**Mr. Essop said he had written out a copy of the poem from the original one night last year. He had given the copy to Mr. Naik. He had not been aware of the full meaning of the poem because he was "drunk at the time."**  
**Mr. Essop agreed that his handwriting did not look like that written by a drunk man.**

Asked why he had handed the poem to Mr. Naik, Mr. Essop said he had done it at Mr. Timol's request. Mr. Timol had said they should discuss the poem at the next meeting of their discussion group of

communist events. — Yes.  
**Mr. Nothing: And that it was proved that he worked for the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress. — Yes.**  
**Mr. Nothing: Do you agree that in order to achieve success he had to win people over to his way of thinking? — I gathered that when I read the exhibits.**

**Mr. Nothing: He had to convince people that communism was the ideal system for South Africa? — Yes.**

**Mr. Nothing: And the obvious place to start would be with his friends? — Yes, if you want to put it that way.**  
**Mr. Nothing: Do you agree that he would have needed friends to assist him. — Yes, in the sense that everybody needs friends.**

**Mr. Nothing: You were one of his friends? — Yes. Cross-examined further, the accused said that Mr. Timol did not try to win him over. "He did not propagate communism."**

The accused said he was not anxious for a change in South Africa. "I saw there was a need for a change but I did not think of involving myself actively in any way. I hoped there would be a change but I was not prepared to assist in bringing about a change," said Mr. Essop.

**Mr. Nothing then read from a letter Mr. Timol allegedly wrote to the South African communist party. Under the heading "recruiting," Mr. Timol recommended Mr. Essop. In his letter Timol said Mr. Essop was highly conscious of political life.**

Asked how Mr. Timol could have written the letter, Mr. Essop said Mr. Timol was completely unjustified in writing.  
**Mr. Nothing said Mr. Timol wrote that Mr. Essop could serve with him in the main unit of the Communist Party. Reference was made in the letter to the "social revolution" of Mr. Essop and that he was a "fine revolutionary comrade."**

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"I would have been a good father did not trade with any photographic dealers."  
Before the adjournment Mr. J. Browde SC, for Essop, Essack and Moodley, said that on Monday he would like to consult with Mr. Essack and Mr. Moodley.  
Facilities at the prison were "primitive," he said. The judge commented that he consult with them at the Old Synagogue.