

Wits. S.R.C. to hold Timol rally today

EXPRESS REPORTER

Sunday Express

THE STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL of the University of the Witwatersrand will hold an Ahmed Timol Memorial meeting in the university's Great Hall at 2.30 p.m. today — even though they might be contravening a provision of the Group Areas Act.

Mr. Glen Moss, president of the S.R.C., said yesterday that they had taken legal advice about the meeting and were told that "on balance" they would not be contravening the Group Areas Act.

"We may also be contravening the Criminal Law Amendment Act," said Mr. Moss. The S.R.C. obtained permission yesterday from university authorities to hold the memorial meeting in the Great Hall.

This followed the banning by the Minister of Justice, Mr. P. C. Pelser, of open air meetings "of a political nature," in some cities and towns. Meetings are banned for two weeks under a proclamation in the Government Gazette.

DEATH FALL

Mr. Timol, a Terrorism Act detainee, died in a fall from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square in Johannesburg two years ago.

Memorial meetings were planned to commemorate Mr. Timol's death and those of 21 others who have died while in detention.

The Government Gazette proclamation banned open air meetings in Johannesburg, Alberton, Benoni, Boksburg, Brakpan, Germiston, Heidelberg, Kempton Park, Krugersdorp, Nigel, Pretoria, Randfontein, Roodepoort, Springs, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging and Westonaria.

Speakers expected at the

Great Hall today are Mr. Sonny Leon, leader of the Labour Party, Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi, former president of the banned African National Congress Women's Federation, Mrs.

Helen Joseph, who was formerly under house arrest, Dr. R. A. M. Saloojee, of Lenasia, and the Rev. Douglas Thompson, who was formerly banned.

Meeting on Wits campus is legal

SUNDAY TIMES Reporter

MR. P. C. PELSER the Minister of Justice, said yesterday that as far as his department was concerned no action would be taken to prevent the Ahmed Timol memorial meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand this afternoon.

On Friday the Minister announced a 14-day ban on open-air meetings "of a political nature" in and around Johannesburg. He said this was in the interests of maintaining public peace "as a result of political activities by certain individuals and organisations."

The announcement forced the Ahmed Timol Memorial Committee to abandon plans for a multi-racial rally at a Vrededorp sports ground. On Friday night the Wits SRC offered to hold a meeting in the campus

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Great Hall to commemorate the deaths in police detention of Mr. Timol and 21 other political prisoners. It will also call for the release of all political prisoners.

Mr. Pelser told me yesterday: "The meeting is being held within four walls in compliance with the Riotous Assemblies Act. No action is necessary."

The Chief of the Security Police, Brigadier G. L. Prinsloo, said yesterday that his men "would be watching" and would take "suitable action" if the law was contravened.

The meeting will be held in the Great Hall at 2.30 pm today.