

Private man at autopsy

AN INDEPENDENT consultant pathologist looked on as doctors conducted a post-mortem today on the body of Mr Ahmed Timol, the Security Police detainee who died in detention on Wednesday.

The post-mortem began at the Government Mortuary in Johannesburg at 8 am today. It lasted nearly three hours.

Several police doctors and district surgeons were in attendance, it was confirmed by a spokesman of the mortuary.

Mr Timol's body was positively identified by his parents, Mr and Mrs Yusuf Timol of Mare Street, Roodepoort, before the post-mortem started this morning.

The post-mortem was performed today by Dr N. J. Scheepers, head of forensic medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand, who is also the officer in charge of the Government legal medical laboratories, and Dr Jonathan Gluckman, the independent pathologist.

Dr Gluckman was requested to be present during the post-mortem by the legal advisers representing the Timol family.

Interviewed after the completion of the operation today, Dr Gluckman said: "The investigation, from the pathological point of view, is far from complete.

"The post-mortem was carried out with all the assistance and co-operation of the authorities."

He said a full report on the outcome of the post-mortem would be drawn up and submitted to the authorities. "But this will not be for some weeks. The investigation is far from complete."

★ *The Rev D. P. M. Beukes, Southern Transvaal Moderator of the Ned Geref Kerk, today declined to comment on the latest development involving Security Police detainees. "This is a matter for the State and the Security Police. It is very easy to talk from a distance. If you knew everything that was behind it, you might speak differently.*

"I do not have all the background information and would prefer not to comment," he said.

4 CHURCHES CALL FOR PRAYERS

CHURCH LEADERS in Pretoria today called for a day of prayer, penitence and self-denial to express distress at the death of the Indian detainee, Mr Ahmed Timol.

The Anglican Dean of Pretoria, the Very Rev Mark Nye, said he felt completely sick on reading of Mr Timol's death.

Leaders of the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches issued this statement:

"We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned about the death of Ahmed Timol while in detention and the sudden illness of another detainee, Mohammed Essop.

SOCIAL ILLS

"We recognise that these happenings are part and parcel of the social ills and injustices of the society in which we live and that we, as members of the society, are all partly responsible.

"We therefore call all the people of Pretoria to observe a day of prayer, penitence and self-denial to begin on Tuesday, November 2.

"It is left to individual people to decide that from of self-denial they choose to undertake.

"The Dean of Pretoria hopes that all Anglicans will make a total fast, abstaining from all solid food during the period, as an act of penitence.

"The four denominations will keep their churches open

throughout Tuesday and there will be a short service of intercession by the Bishop of Pretoria, and the Rev. Robert Orr at St Alban's Cathedral at 1 pm on Tuesday, to which all are invited.

"Other churches in the suburbs may hold similar services at the same time."

The statement is signed by the Bishop of Pretoria, the Right Rev E. Knapp-Fisher, the Dean of Pretoria, the Rev Robert Orr of the Presbyterian Church, the Rev W. Shipley, chairman of the Northern Transvaal district of the Methodist Church, and the Roman Catholic Vicar-General of Pretoria, the Very Rev Father Magennis.