

TERROR ACT: PROTEST MOUNTS

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Pressure grows on Terror Act

(From Page 1)

tion in deciding under which laws suspects should be detained.

The United Party's shadow Minister of Justice, Mr Mike Mitchell, has already called for the revision of the Act's detention-without-trial provisions and it is certain that the Act and the actions of the Security Police will be one of the major issues raised in next year's no-confidence debate in Parliament.

The issue has been harshly spotlighted by last month's widespread Security Police raids, by the death of the detainee, Mr Ahmed Timol, and by the trial of the dean.

Two major issues are involved:

● The growing Opposition demand for a judicial inquiry into the treatment of detainees who are held under different detention-without-trial provisions. This has already been rejected by the Prime Minister.

● The fact that the police have used the extremely tough Terrorism Act to cope with situations which, critics believe, could effectively have been disposed of in terms of the powers conferred on them by the Suppression of Communism Act or the Sabotage Act.

While Mr Mitchell has claimed vigorously that the Government has abdicated its responsibilities to the public and to democracy in favour of the Security Police, Mr John Dugard, professor of law at the University of the Witwatersrand, yesterday said the Terrorism Act had become a "monster in South African society."

At the same time, the whole situation has sparked off considerable — and highly critical — overseas reaction.

It is unlikely, however, that the Government will soften its position or that it will instruct the police to use the Terrorism Act less frequently.

★ A fund has been launched in Australia to help meet the legal costs of the Dean of Johannesburg, reports S.A.P.A. Reuter. In Sydney today the Senior Assistant Bishop of the Sydney diocese, the Right Rev Hugh Moir, said it was right that Anglicans in Australia should be given the chance to contribute to the dean's legal costs.

Judgment and sentence on the dean, which was reported in late editions of The Star yesterday, is on Page 25.

Leading non-Anglican churchmen expressed shock and concern today at the implications of the verdict and sentence passed yesterday on the Anglican Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev G. A. French-Beytagh.

The general secretary of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, the Rev Joseph Wing, said he felt that cases such as the dean's were a warning to the church which put its members in a dilemma. His church had no sympathy with "protest for protest's sake," but "where the fundamental framework and principle of justice is affected we are bound to attack the system."

"We are all shocked and alarmed at the way the trial points to the need for some kind of dialogue between Church and State."

The Central Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church in Johannesburg, the Rev S. G. Pitts, said: "Every man has now got to weigh up how far action can go without transgressing the law of the land."

See also Page 5 and Page 25.

Commenting on the appearance in a Nationalist newspaper, the Transvaler, today of a cartoon showing a minister carrying a "protest" placard and followed by a large communist jackboot on the march (under the caption "Volg in sy spore"), Mr Pitts said: "There is absolutely no link at all between the exercise of Christian charity and communism — which at its heart is a denial of God."

Anglican sources remained silent today on the implications of the verdict. The Suffragan Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt Rev John Carter, said: "I feel that since the whole matter is sub judice I should not comment: if I did, it might prejudice the outcome of the dean's appeal."

Cabinet

The Star's Political Correspondent reports that while the Cabinet met in Pretoria today for its routine weekly meeting, plans for protest activities were reported from different parts of South Africa, heavily undermining the mounting opposition to the legislation and the way in which it is being used by the Security Police.

Today Mr Vorster, who is also Acting Minister of Police, said he could not make any comment at this stage about the protests which have involved English-language churches, English-language newspapers and spokesmen for both the United and the Progressive parties.

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Mr Peiser, the Minister of Justice, was not available for comment, but said yesterday that the police had the fullest right to use their own discre-

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