

READERS SPEAK OUT . . .

## Two kinds of terrorism

MAY I convey my respectful and heartfelt condolences to the parents, relatives and friends of Mr. Ahmed Timol who lost his life while he was detained by the Security Police. May they be comforted and strengthened at this time of their distress and anguish which, I am sure, are shared by men of goodwill in this country.

At the same time, I record my deep concern for, and sympathy with the families of the

victims of terrorist violence whether it be perpetrated by those who have invaded the country across its borders or the terrorism of banning, banishment or detention without trial.

Time and again you have called on the authorities to ensure that the Security Police are made responsible to the people—all the people—of South Africa for their actions. This call has been ignored, indeed even spurned

with contempt, as though the citizens of this country have no right to know what is happening to their fellows whose lives have been forfeited under questionable circumstances or who are detained or disappear or sustain injury under equally questionable circumstances.

I add my support to your renewed plea to the Prime Minister and that of distinguished persons in the religious, educational and legal

spheres, for an immediate judicial inquiry into the activities of the Security Police.

The parrot call goes out from apartheiders that this is a Christian country. There are two cardinal principles which should be the mark of a Christian and which well bear repeating:

*"By this shall all men know you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

(John 13, 35).

*"When you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me."*

(Math. 25, 34 — 40).

Apartheid, even under the guise of so-called separate development, has subverted these principles and has supplanted Christian faith and love in our land. This has been done in the name of Christianity.

### Break-up

It would appear that this ruthless god is not satisfied with plunder, the break-up of family life, the encouragement of iscarotism, detention without trial, banning, banishment and the many other evils which it has inflicted on our society. Must human lives and fundamental human liberties continue to be sacrificed to this god? Must the Security Police be allowed by the authorities to continue with their unquested control over the lives and liberties of our people? It is sheer hypocrisy to pretend to fight the evils of atheistic communism by practising its principles and using its methods under another name.

This is the sorry state of our country. South Africans worthy of the name must record their abhorrence at what is going on in their name and that of Christianity. — ELDRED LESLIE, Munsgrave Road, Durban.

## In face of evil

MAY THE wave of uncertainty, dissatisfaction and protest aroused by the death of Timol increase so that our country may once again take her place with pride amongst others in the world, instead of remaining the outcast which she richly deserves in the face of this evil. — JOYCE SMITH, Hill-brow.

## Haven't we heard this excuse before?

THE STREETS of our country are in turmoil. The universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting. Communists are seeking to des-

troy our country, Russia is threatening us with her might, and the Republic is in danger. Yes, danger from within and without. We need law and

## We all share

## the guilt

THOMAS SCOTT'S remorseful letter (Mail, October 29), was brave and sorrowful and made my heart ache, for I too am guilty and would now acknowledge responsibility for the death of Ahmed Timol.

Along with thousands of other South Africans, I am guilty. Through our inaction, we have condoned the fascism which has made our country a police state.

We must speak out against the Government and the Security Police, as the "Mail" has been doing for years.

We have sat back too long, waiting for others to voice our feelings, for we had no wish to involve ourselves. But I would say this to my fellow South Africans: you have no right to call yourselves Christians if, suspecting the methods of the Security Police as we all must, your conscience remains clear.

It is our duty as Christians

to do all that is within our power to bring our country out of the darkness.

I say to people of my parents' generation: the echo of the jackboot is resounding within your own country.

Would you, who experienced the horrors of the Second World War, allow the same situation to prevail again, here in your own country? And you must ask questions: Why do so many prisoners of the Security Police commit suicide? What goes on at John Vorster Square?

I call on all those South Africans professing to be Christians or humanitarians, who have remained silent over the years, to stand up now and admit their guilt. Let us mourn, not only for Ahmed Timol, but also for a sad country. We are all guilty in the eyes of the Lord. — JAYNE MCINTYRE BAULING, Randburg.

order of our nation can not survive."

—Adolf Hitler, in 1932.

This sort of paranoia seems to have taken grip of Mr. Vorster and his Nationalists who have now resorted to unscrupulous methods in dealing with their opponents.

The secrecy behind the mysterious death of Ahmed Timol and the whereabouts of the other victims of Security Branch raids are similar to the methods employed by the Gestapo of Nazi Germany.

In spite of calls from responsible people throughout South Africa for a public judicial inquiry into the death of Ahmed Timol, the Prime Minister deems it unnecessary.

### Police

Arbitrary laws are being placed above the jurisdiction of the law courts. Such laws do not serve the security of the State but threaten the security of the public and bring about friction between Black and White.

Let us never forget those who have died in police detention lest complacency and apathy overwhelm us. Let the tears of sorrow well up and let our consciences cry out with guilt, for justice appeases those who demand it most and afflicts those who turn a blind eye to it.

Let us act now, for tomorrow it might be too late. — R. F. CAPLAN, Sydenham, Johannesburg.