

No injuries on detainee's face, court is told

By JOHN MOJAPELO
Pretoria Bureau

TWO magistrates and a police station commander told the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday they had not seen any injuries on the face of the former student leader Mr Aurret van Heerden a few days after he had been allegedly tortured.

Mr O A de Meyer, the former Chief Magistrate of Benoni, Mr P C van Der Merwe, a Johannesburg magistrate, and Major D P Combrink, the former station commander of Benoni police station, were giving evidence before Mr Justice C F Eloff.

Mr Van Heerden, 29, of Johannesburg, a former president of the National Union of South African Students, alleged he had been maltreated and tortured while held by the Security Police at the Pretoria Central Prison, the Sandton police station, John Vorster Square and the Benoni police station from September 24, 1981 to July 9, 1982.

Mr Van Heerden is suing 10 security policemen for R113 000 in their private capacities.

Mr De Meyer, who was called as a witness for the Security Police, said he had visited Mr Van Heerden at the Benoni police station where he was being held under the Terrorism Act.

Mr Van Heerden had no complaints or requests to make to the magistrate.

Mr De Meyer said he would have seen if Mr Van Heerden had a black eye, a mark on the bridge of his nose or a swelling on his right cheek.

Mr Van Heerden had earlier alleged he had sustained the injuries on the night of November 18 after he had been assaulted by the policemen in their offices at the Benoni police station.



MAJOR D P COMBRINK
'I saw no injuries'

Mr De Meyer said he had been told on November 24 and 26 that Mr Van Heerden was not available as he had been taken out by the Security Police for investigation.

He was also aware of a report by the Inspector of Detainees, Mr A J Mouton, that Mr Van Heerden was not available at the police station on November 24.

Mr De Meyer said he did not know Mr Van Heerden was at the police station on the days when he was told he had been taken out.

Mr De Meyer said he did not see any reason why attempts should have been made to hide Mr Van Heerden from him.

The Johannesburg magistrate, Mr Van der Merwe, said he had visited Mr Van Heerden while he was detained at John Vorster Square.

Mr Van der Merwe said on two occasions he had been told Mr Van Heerden was not available because he had been taken out for investigation.

He had accepted the explanation without making any further inquiries.

He said he had not seen any



MR O A DE MEYER
No attempt to hide detainee

facial injuries on Mr Van Heerden when he had seen him on December 4.

Mr Van Heerden had not complained to him or made any requests.

When he was told on December 17 Mr Van Heerden was not available because he was out on "investigation" he did not think there had been an attempt to hide him from him, said Mr Van der Merwe.

The former Station Commander of the Benoni police station, Maj Combrink, told the court that when he had seen Mr Van Heerden on November 20 he had had no visible facial injuries.

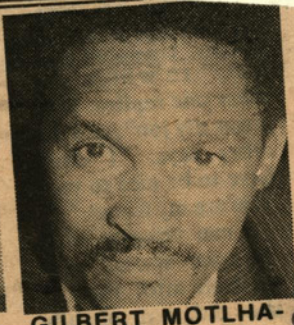
Mr Van Heerden had not complained to him.

Mr Van Heerden is bringing the action against Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Benoni Cronwright, Maj Stephanus Abrie, Maj J N Visser, Maj P P Olivier, Warrant-Officer D J Fourie, W/O Lawrence Phillip Prince, Captain P Botes, Lieutenant Hendrik Pitout, and Lieut Johan van Aswegen. Lt Van Aswegen is no longer a policeman.

The hearing continues today.



GIBSON THULA:
Loser?



GILBERT MOTLAPING: Winner?

BOOZE STORE

BATTLE OVER

THE struggle for control of 13 bottle stores on the East Rand offered on tender may be over—with a dissident group of black businessmen gaining control of the bottle stores through the controversial 51-49 percent black-white partnership contract.

The outlets are now the scene of a

major battle for control with two rival black business groups, one a break-away of the other, fighting for control of them.

Mr Gilbert Motlaping, who leads the five businessmen who have broken from Mr Gibson Thula's S and H Syndicate, confirmed yesterday that his group had finally provided funds for the acquisition of the outlets.

But Mr Thula yesterday discounted the claims by Mr Motlaping and said there was no way his new rival could have bought the outlets without his consent, and that of the other partners in the original syndicate.

And in the middle of the new development is Mrs Rika Lourens, who has been battling to get into this syndicate and was previously spurned. She now enjoys 49 percent shares in the venture, and by virtue of this becomes the major shareholder of the group.

The four black share-

holders — Mr Motlaping, Mr Absalom Khumalo, Mr Steve Namane and Mr Christopher "Nditha" Sibeko — share 51 percent of the shares while Mrs Lourens enjoys 49 percent. In effect she controls the business.

The original syndicate led by Mr Thula had refused any white participation through this partnership contract, but had wanted direct loans from financial institutions. Several approaches apparently fell through and the syndicate was in a crisis situation.

This could have given Mrs Lourens, waiting on the sidelines, the opportunity and when approached immediately offered the loan — but in terms of the 51-49 percent partnership contract.

SOWETAN

14 MARCH 81

Labour still SOWETAN 14 MAR 1984 seeks alliance

THE leader of the Labour Party, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, yesterday said his organisation would accept Africans, Indians and whites into its ranks, and would continue to seek an alliance with other organisations.

Mr Hendrickse was speaking shortly after the announcement that a group of Indian politicians from the Transvaal have decided to join the Labour Party. Among the group is Mr Salem Abram-Mayet, a member of the President's Council.

He said the party would accept them as members, although the matter will still have to be discussed at the executive committee meeting in Cape Town at the end of the month.

The acceptance of other racial groups into the party, he said, was not an attempt at forming a Labour Party dominated alliance.

"These people are coming into the organisation as individuals and not as groups. We already have white and African members," Mr Hendrickse said.

He would continue in his efforts to forge links with other organisations even if this did not lead to the formation of a structured alliance.

He added: "Of course Indian and coloured people within the organisation will participate in elections for their respective chambers under the tricameral Parliament."

However, the Labour Party would not participate in homeland politics because it restricted its participation to the new Parliament.

Regarding the establishment of an alliance, he said he would not initiate such an alliance but would rather it developed of its own.

"I think it is some-



REV HENDRICKSE

thing that must develop. I still feel that an alliance has a role to play in the South African context," he said.

He did not see the campaign by the United Democratic Front (UDF) to boycott the forthcoming elections as a serious threat to his party's plans.

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