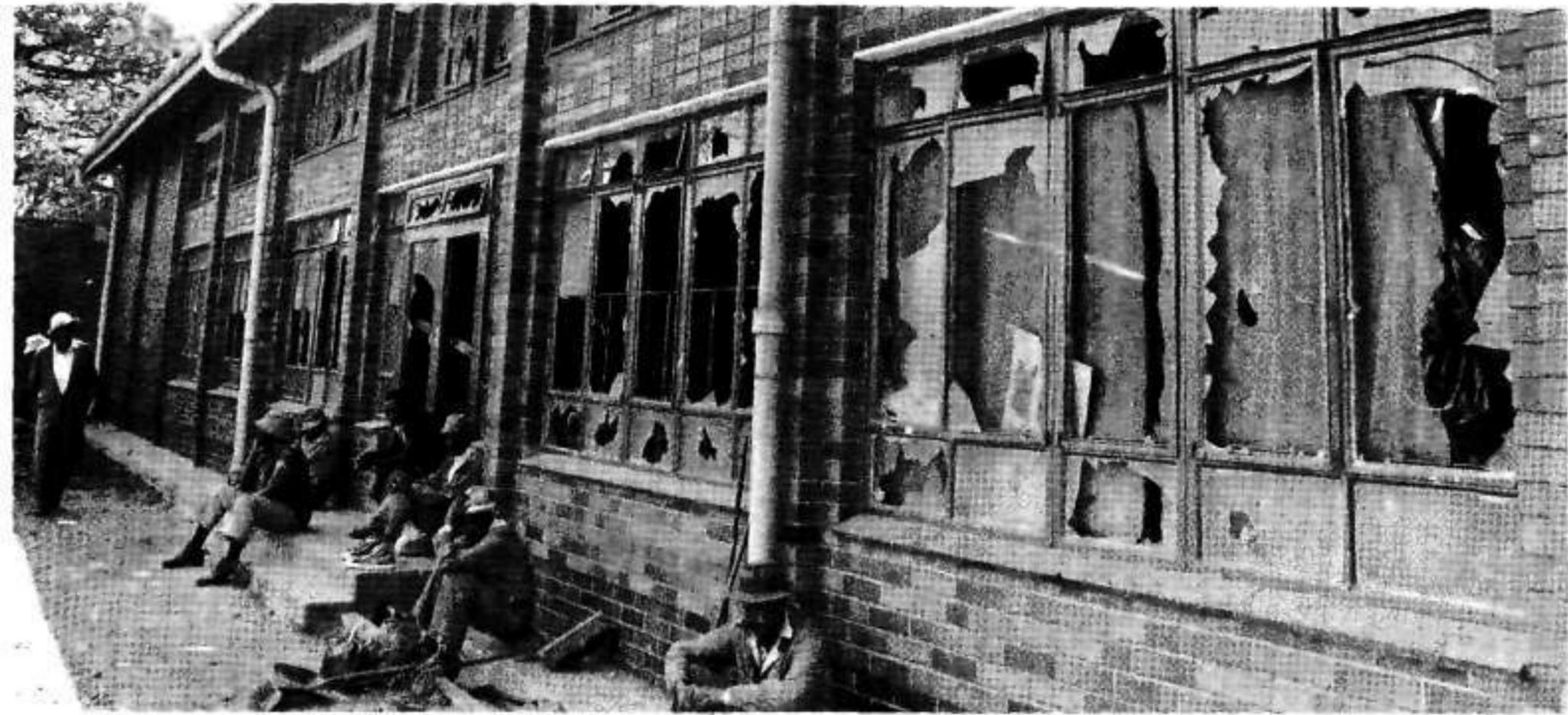


EDITORIAL



The appalling violence which has, to date, claimed more than 1 000 lives in black areas in and around the Pietermaritzburg area of Natal tragically continues.

Although the violence has correctly been ascribed to a variety of factors (including apartheid and criminality) which will be dealt with elsewhere in this document, the basic perception is that the so-called "battle" is between followers of the United Democratic Front (now restricted), the Congress of South African Trade Unions and its affiliates and the national cultural liberation movement, Inkatha.

In a joint legal declaration adopted recently by COSATU and Inkatha, each acknowledged and regretted the violence and committed themselves to conveying to their members that they categorically condemned acts of intimidation, forced recruitment and violence.

Furthermore, in a sincere attempt to bring about peace, they agreed, at their own cost, to establish a Complaints Adjudication Board (consisting of independent chairmen who are public figures and assessors nominated by both COSATU and Inkatha) to hear and determine complaints of Pietermaritzburg residents.

This Board will recommend what steps should be taken by COSATU and Inkatha against any of their respective members who may act, or who may have acted, contrary to the dictates of both organisations.

Clearly, both want an end to the carnage.

This issue of Clarion Call is therefore an effort by Inkatha and the KwaZulu Government to distribute as widely as possible the full text of the peace initiative by COSATU and Inkatha so that the Board will be afforded the fullest co-operation by all concerned.

Furthermore, as the violence has been escalating for several years, it has been accompanied by a plethora of national and international Press coverage which, in many instances, has fallen extremely short

of revealing unbiased and in-depth analyses of the factors inherent to the overall situation.

Various individuals and organisations (outside COSATU and Inkatha) have become involved and huge sums of money have been expended for legal and other costs in attempts to "expose" the protagonists and apportion blame one way or the other. This, in many instances, has only exacerbated tensions and however well-meaning many have been, they have wittingly or unwittingly prolonged the agony of the people of Pietermaritzburg.

COSATU and Inkatha have declared that they want this to stop.

The fact is that political games have been and are being played with people's lives in Pietermaritzburg — and elsewhere throughout South Africa — and it is time they were exposed.

Clarion Call will briefly outline *some* of the factors believed to be central to violence in Natal/KwaZulu in particular and in other areas nationwide.

It is emphasised that these briefings are produced as general background material in an attempt to give the issue a clearer perspective as newspaper and other reports have, for the most part, been woefully lacking in objectivity and insight.

The Editor takes responsibility for the contents which have been collated from a variety of sources and some viewpoints given prominence — apart from unreserved support for the peace initiatives — may not necessarily reflect the views of Inkatha or the KwaZulu Government or be aims and objectives supported in any way whatsoever by them or by COSATU.

In so doing it is our intention to show the inordinate complexities involved, and not always apparent, in an effort, once and for all, to quash the simplistic "good guys" and "bad guys" approach that has to date been the hallmark of much of the debate and coverage regarding Pietermaritzburg.