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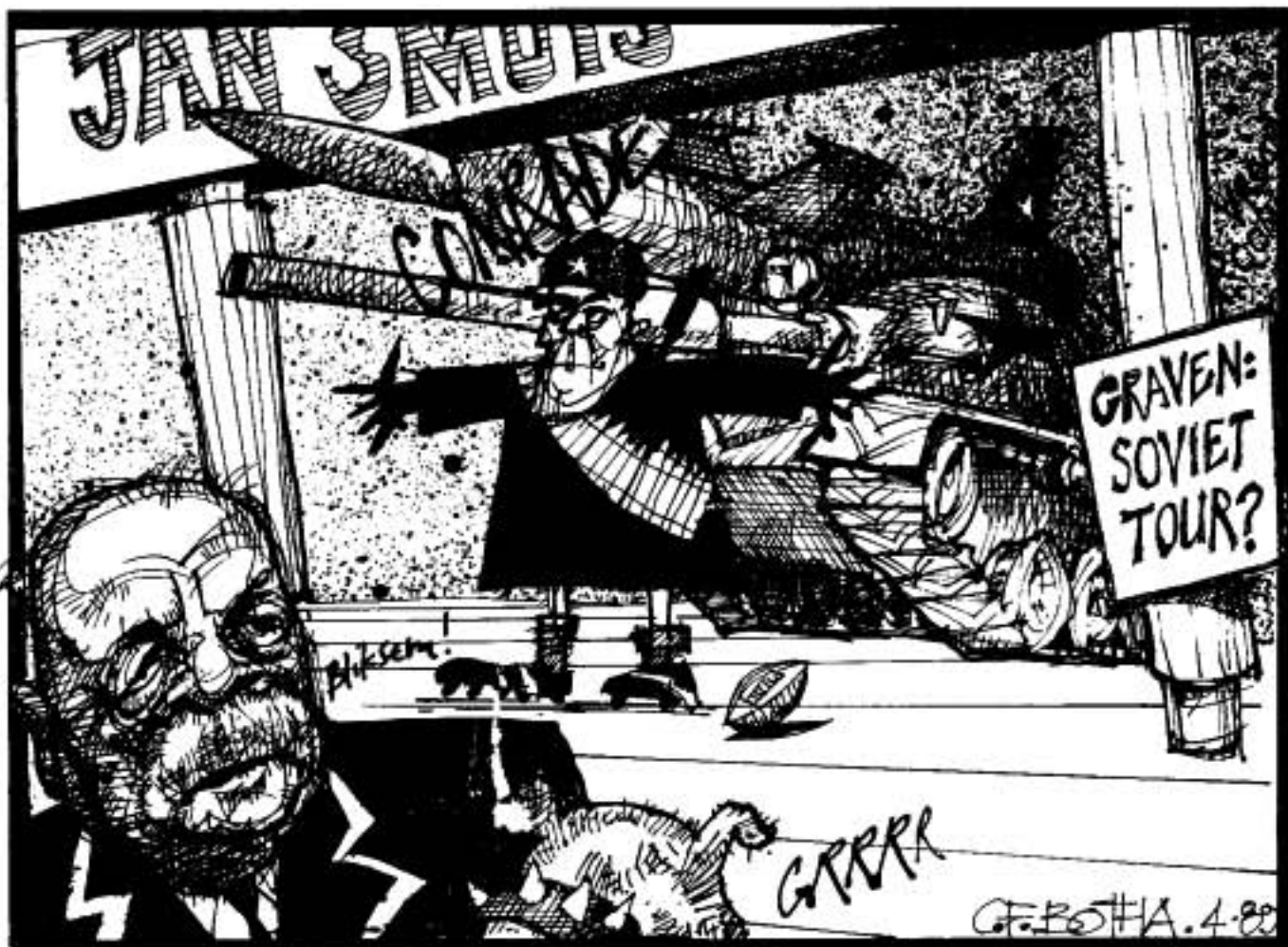
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ARTICLES IN DEMOCRACY IN ACTION REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF THE WRITERS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY CORRESPOND WITH THE VIEWPOINTS HELD BY IDASA.



Two faces

Whilst the government's tone has changed it would be too much to expect that, as the election campaign hots up, there will not be more vitriolic outpourings against any organisation and individual which seeks further contact with the ANC. But it is my view that there will be more and more a public face and a private face as far as the ANC is concerned.

After the election it is not beyond the realms of possibility that Nelson Mandela will be released and discussions, and even wining and dining, will begin to take place not merely between the ANC and academics and students, women and business people, but between officials of the state and the central executive of the ANC.

To the extent that there has been a significant shift within South Africa, one of IDASA's original goals, namely "to assist in creating the climate for genuine negotiation towards a non-racial, democratic South Africa", has been met. There is a very, very long and tough road ahead, but the first tentative steps are being taken.

ALEX BORAINÉ
Executive Director

"We must get to the root of the problem, namely indefinite detention without trial. Although we can see the necessity for limited detention without trial in explosive situations, the indefinite detention of people, in some cases for years, without charge or trial cannot be defended."

Mr Kuhn said one had the feeling that, since the hunger strike, the whole question of detention without trial could never be quite the same again. A sort of Achilles' heel had been found in the system, and it would be attacked again.

Eventually the government would have to tackle "the question that lies deeper".

ing towards the demise of white South Africans. A typical *Burger* headline read "Reds will dominate terrorist delegation". There were quaint unsubstantiated rumours and speculation in the Nationalist press that Gadaffi was behind the visit!

It was also suggested that the communists were paying for the conference. The rightwing BBB (Blanke Bevrydingsbeweging) filed a formal complaint with the police accusing us of high treason. The AWB demanded that the government should revoke the passports of all those who went from South Africa and also joined the chorus that we should be charged with high treason. *The Citizen* suggested that the government would move to change laws to prevent South Africans meeting the ANC. The State President in parliament poured scorn and abuse on the IDASA delegation and threatened to stop its work with the introduction of a select committee and the introduction of a bill to restrict foreign funding to organisations like IDASA. We said then, and we say it again, that white South Africans have to break out of their self-made cocoon in order to face reality.

Detention will never be same again

FOLLOWING on from a recent critical article on detention without trial, the Johannesburg Afrikaans daily, *Beeld*, has now spoken out against the system of indefinite incarceration.

Beeld columnist Willie Kuhn said in a recent column that by "concentrating" all hunger strikers in the Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein, the government was only treating a symptom of the problem.