

## MK, military staff on Idasa-led tour

FOR two weeks in March, Ivor Jenkins of Idasa led a group of South Africans on a military tour of Denmark, Brussels and Vienna.

These 19 participants – consisting of lecturers, researchers, MK organisers and military personnel – aimed to study civil-military relations in Denmark, regional security co-operation based on the example of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato), and the applicability of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) agreement. At the same time Idasa hoped that confidence and mutual trust would develop between the participants.

The tour delegation spent five days in Denmark, where they were hosted by the Danish Ministry of Defence. The group was introduced to the theory behind and the practical expression of the ministry and its sub-structures.

In Denmark, the military intelligence organisation reports directly to the military rather than the Chief of Defence.

Most of the personnel planning is civilian rather than military-orientated, creating what could be called a civilian-controlled Ministry of Defence.

The Danes use a draft system of conscription, which they believe to be morally compatible with a democratic society,



*BUILDING TRUST: Participants Fana Hlongwane, Ian Phillips and A...*

path if suitably qualified.

Most interesting to South Africans is the fact that there is a no-strings-attached choice of military or civilian service. Civilian service could involve employment in a community-based organisation or a government department.

In addition, national servicemen have what the Danes describe as a trade union, but what in South Africa would probably be called a staff association. The union carries out most of the normal functions of a trade union, but has no right to strike – this would be totally opposed to military discipline.

Members of the permanent force, of which five to 10 per-

cent are ambassador to the Western European Union, organised a meeting with Nato. The participants wished to investigate the role of Nato after the collapse of East-European communism.

The end of the Cold War meant a reduction of expenditure on military equipment, but no reduction in the number of Nato forces. The perceived menace of the Warsaw Pact forces has been replaced by apprehensions about the future stability of some former Warsaw Pact countries.

As a result, the Nato structure will stay in place for the foreseeable future, but has been modified to fit in with new situations. The Nato coun-

# Poor process nearly scuttles con

A COMIC about the education crisis, and a code of conduct aimed at addressing the crisis, have been produced by the Storyteller Group and published by the National Education Conference (NEC) for distribution to all schools in South Africa.

But the comic and the code of conduct were almost scuttled by poor process.

This became vividly apparent at a workshop held in March at the Alpha Training Centre in Broederstroom. The Idasa Training Centre for Democracy had been asked to facilitate the workshop, which was conceived as a pilot for a national process of using the comic to popularise the notion of the code of conduct for all schools.

A total of 120 teachers and student leaders from schools in the Transvaal gathered in Broederstroom for this workshop, which took place exactly two years after its precursor – an education conference aimed at devising strategies to restore a culture of learning and teaching in schools.

The NEC itself emerged from the deliberations at that conference. So did a set of guidelines intended to help parents, teachers and students draw up a code of conduct appropriate to their individual circumstances.



*CLASSROOM SCENES: An extract from the Storyteller Group's comic*

Two years later, however, what was intended to be a quiet follow-up conference began in noise and acrimony, as teacher representatives accused the NEC of failing to consult with teachers about the comic, the code of conduct and the workshop programme.

The point was forcefully made that teachers who had been under the authoritarian rule of the Department of Education and Training (DET) for four decades refused to submit to the same treatment from the ANC.

Idasa found itself in the role of mediator in this conflict and managed to facilitate a compro-

mise by the second day of the workshop. In terms of the compromise, the workshop programme was amended to accommodate the demands of the workshop participants.

Various exercises were conducted, in plenary and small group sessions, and common experiences were shared. Representatives from the Storyteller Group described the thinking behind the writing of the comic and why that specific medium had been chosen.

The comic and the incidents illustrated in it were discussed at length and, by the end of the workshop, both it and the code of conduct were seen as neces-

## Inanda Development Forum launched

THE launch of the Inanda Development Forum (IDF) on 26 March represents the culmination of years of effort by four main players: the Inanda Civic Association, the Inanda Landowners' Association, the Natal Provincial Administration and the Durban City Council.

These interest groups began setting up the forum, with the aim of ensuring growth and prosperity in the Inanda area, at the end of 1992.

They made up a Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the IDF, with the process facilitated by Idasa.

Inanda, 24km north-west of Durban, is home to the largest

proportion of the informal population of the Durban Functional Region (DFR). Population is estimated at 450 000 people, and there are approximately 793 freehold properties in the area owned by African and Indian people, the church and the state.

Government refusal over many years to recognise the growing settlement has resulted in a very evident state of neglect. The whole area is densely populated, under-ser-

viced, distant from job opportunities and hopelessly short of social amenities.

The IDF aims to co-ordinate and facilitate current and future planning and development initiatives within the area, in terms of a development framework that reflects the community's vision for holistic development.

Its objectives include ensuring: genuine community representation in decision making; shared responsibility between

## Voter education for the SADF

A MASSIVE voter education programme for the entire South African Defence Force (SADF) is under way and due to be completed by 23 April. The organisation appointed to run the programme is Idasa's Johannesburg-based Training Centre for Democracy.

Idasa's accreditation as a voter education agency by the Independent Electoral Commission was vital for the training centre's selection for the task, which is being co-ordinated nationally through its Police and Public Order Programme. The person responsible for co-ordination and logistics on the SADF side is

workshops were held in the Castle, and in a hangar normally used to park Air Force planes. In northern Natal workshops are being run for 121 Battalion in the Mathubathuba area, also close to the Mozambican border.

Other workshops are scheduled for the Witwatersrand area, Orange Free State, Eastern Cape, North West and Northern Transvaal.

A staff of 40 civilians from various parts of the country, who have attended an orientation workshop, are responsible for running the voter education workshops.

Voter education is being con-



*TAKING THE OATH: Participants the election process.*

## **IDASA IN ACTION**

# Democracy rules in Eastern Cape

DEMOCRACY rules at last in the Eastern Cape Regional Economic Development Forum, which held a fully representative conference in Port Elizabeth in the middle of March, with delegates from the whole of the Eastern Cape.

The presence of representatives from rural areas was in part the result of Idasa's continuing commitment to promoting grassroots democracy. When the Eastern Cape forum was formed in Port Elizabeth early in 1993, it was assumed that policy could be planned from the capital city simply because that was where the regional leadership lived.

With ANC candidate premier Raymond Mhlaba as its vice-chairperson, and three other of the region's top ANC leaders on its management committee, the forum was perceived by many to be fully representative.

However, Idasa pointed out the inadequate representation of the more rural sub-regions, and the Port Elizabeth office began designing a programme to include these areas. The forum accepted the process-design and asked Idasa to implement the programme, with funding provided by the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

In December 1993 the first series of workshops was held in Humansdorp, Graaff-Reinet, Cradock and Grahamstown, the centres of the four sub-regions of the Eastern Cape.

These workshops consciously avoided creating the impression that they simply wanted to introduce the development forum. Instead they embodied a process aimed at facilitating sub-regional inputs to the shape of the forum, in terms of both structure and objectives.

In the interim, the forum commissioned a R260 000 research study to establish a clear development profile of the Eastern Cape. This study was co-ordinated by the Institute for Planning Research at the University of Port Elizabeth, but subcontracted to academic institutions throughout the region.

It covered 11 interrelated subjects - demography; the economy; inter-regional linkages; human resource development (education); welfare and health; housing and services; transport; water and energy; the environment; tourism and recreation; and labour.

When this study was completed in March 1994, Idasa's local office took its findings to

the rural areas.

Workshops in the four sub-regions were designed to ensure an adequate understanding of the study documents and the relevant development concepts.

After reaching agreement on their own area's "key development issues", each sub-region elected 20 delegates to attend the mid-March forum conference. A strong delegation from the PE/Uitenhage metropole also attended.

Conference delegates set "development objectives" in 10 of the subject areas of the study. Building on these, interim recommendations were also determined, which will be brought to the attention of the new provincial legislature as soon as it takes office after the election.

Idasa's message to participants throughout the process was that, in the new Eastern Province at least, development policy should contain no more surprises! People on the ground, even in dispersed communities, should be part of the information-gathering process, part of the prioritising of needs, and part of final decision making.

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