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# EDITORIALS

## 1. THE EMERGENCY

*This is an attenuated edition of REALITY.*

*Material has had to be left out because our lawyers tell us it would, in terms of the Emergency Regulations, be deemed to be "subversive".*

*The same goes for what comment we feel would be worth making. □*

## 2. THE ROAD TO BEIRUT

Inspired partly but by no means exclusively by the South African Government's May raids into Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, we return to an old theme — violence and our country.

You don't have to be a pacifist to argue that the lunatic spiral of violence on which we — all of us — are now embarked, each extra day it lasts, takes us one step nearer to Lebanon, and makes even more daunting the task of producing a reasonably decent society at the end of it all.

Apart from the moral considerations one practical argument against continuing violence here is that nobody can predict where it will lead or end, and another is that it appears to be feeding on itself. The evidence supporting both these arguments grows around us by the day.

We suppose the top Pretoria brass which authorised the first raids into Lesotho and Maputo those years ago reasoned that a sharp slap on our neighbours' wrists at that stage would soon choke off ANC access to the Republic. Now they are having to go to Lusaka and Harare. Once you have started, where do you stop?

The ANC has reaffirmed its policy of not attacking "soft" civilian targets, yet it is difficult to see anything "hard" about the black tractor drivers who are being blown up by mines in Transvaal border areas or the people of assorted ages, sexes and colours being blown up at bus-stops and shopping-centres. In the realm of violence intentions and results, as often as not, turn out to be two different things.

In the townships a considerable number of people must by now have gone through the process, from throwing their first stone at a bus, to tossing their first petrol bomb through the window of "an agent of the system", to bestowing a "necklace" on "an enemy of the people" ... a horrifying progression reminiscent of the descent into hell of a drug addict. How do you recover from it?

On the other side, the Government's knee-jerk reaction to even the most innocent township anti-apartheid occasion seems to be to suppress it violently.