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Cover Picture - Clint Zasman

picture: P5 AFRA PP 8, 9, 10, 12 (l) 13 Clint Zasman pp 11, 12(r) Aron Mazel

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EDITORIALS

1. Violence

In the Pretoria Minute of August 6th the two signatories, the Government and the ANC, "expressed serious concern about the general level of violence, intimidation and unrest in the country, especially in Natal".

They said that they hoped that the agreement they had reached could "become a milestone on the road to true peace and prosperity for our country". Whether it does that or not will depend on whether they have the will and the capacity to solve the first problem, and not only in Natal.

The ink was not yet dry on the Minute before death and destruction swept through the Coloured areas of Port Elizabeth. A stop had hardly been put to that before bloody conflict broke out between ANC and Inkatha supporters on the Reef (or between Zulus and Xhosas, as some would maintain) leaving over 500 dead. Who knows what might happen next and where?

The ANC has done everything possible at the leadership level to bring the violence to an end, except one thing. It has refused to agree to Nelson Mandela talking to Chief Buthelezi.

We believe that such a meeting should have happened long ago, soon after Mr Mandela's release, and even before his triumphant rally in Durban. That single gesture of reconciliation might have defused the terrible Natal situation, led to a slow return to normality there, and forestalled the extension of the conflict to other parts of the country. We suspect it never happened because elements in the UDF didn't want it to.

We hope that by the time this issue of REALITY appears in print the ANC leadership will have overruled those objections and a meeting will have taken place. It may not end the violence, but without it nothing else will. □