

## SOUTH AFRICA : THE REALITIES

### The right to life

\* The infant mortality rate for Africans in 1988 was 62 per 1,000 live births; for whites it was 13.2 per thousand.

### A roof over your head

\* About one in every five South Africans has no permanent accommodation. There are at least 5 million squatters in the urban areas.

### Democracy

\* The African population of South Africa, comprising 83% of the whole, has no voting rights in relation to the existing parliament and central government.

### Free political activity

\* All outdoor meetings, except sports events and funerals in cemeteries, and some indoor meetings, are prohibited in terms of an order issued by the Minister of Law and Order under Section 46 of the Internal Security Act. This order was renewed for a year on 30 March 1990.

Organisers may apply to magistrates for permission for outdoor gatherings. Preparing for co-ordinated demonstrations on 1 February, ANC organisers were refused permission in six towns in the northern Transvaal, five towns in the western Transvaal, and two other centres.

### Release of political prisoners

\* On 6 August 1990 the South African authorities signed an agreement with the ANC, known as the Pretoria Minute, in terms of which the release of political prisoners would commence on 1 September and be completed by 30 April 1991. By the end of 1990, of the 1,700-2,000 political prisoners believed to have been in prison on 2 February 1990, only 303 had been released (of whom 80 served their full sentence & were due for release in any event).

### Return of political exiles

\* Estimates of the numbers of political exiles range from 20,000 to 40,000. In terms of the Pretoria Minute, the granting of indemnity from prosecution to political exiles was due to have been completed in relation to certain categories of exiles by the end of 1990, and in relation to individuals outside these categories, by 30 April 1991. On 11 January the Minister of Justice announced that 1,079 people had been granted indemnity solely for the minor offence of leaving the country illegally.

### The ending of political trials

\* By November 1990 there were still 279 known political trials in progress involving almost 2,000 defendants.

### Free trade union activity

\* In the past three years, at least 40 attacks have been made on the offices of non-racial trade unions - the latest being the destruction by arson of a regional office of NUMSA (the metal workers union) on 14 January 1991. To date, not a single person has been charged with and convicted of any of these crimes.