



CLINT ZASMAN

Two displaced children huddled in an overcrowded room — their father and brother have been killed and their mother is missing.

came precariously close to wrecking the tentative rapprochement when Mr Vlok appeared to implicate Chief Minister Buthelezi in his interpretation of the violence. In earlier talks in the Pietermaritzburg region only public pressure had ensured that UDF leadership was released from detention to attend. Both sides have accused the police of behaving in a partial manner, although there is evidence to suggest that, in general, action has been taken against UDF rather than Inkatha loyalists.

On the other hand, the role which the African National Congress have played in welcoming and encouraging the peace initiatives has assisted the process — from the early letter of Nelson Mandela to the Chief Minister through to their statement that Inkatha, Cosatu, UDF affiliates, churches and other religious institutions, women, youth, professionals, business people and others "share more common ground on this question than what might divide them".

This sentiment coincides with that expressed by Cosatu on behalf of itself and the affiliates of the UDF when it noted "whilst [we] largely share a common political position which differs from that of Inkatha, all three organisations share an abhorrence of apartheid and are committed to achieving peace in Natal".

Mr Mandela's letter had earlier called on all people to support efforts for peace. "The most challenging task facing the leadership today is that of national unity. At no other time in our history has it been so crucial for our people to speak with one voice," he said in the letter quoted in full in the Natal press.

Tough bargaining between Inkatha, Cosatu and representatives of the UDF affiliates over the peace process is expected.

While a common call for the end of the violence will make a major impact, the reality is that the violence is not purely aggression between "party" members. So the parties, at this initial meeting and any that might involve the ANC, will be trying to fashion a programme which will involve all significant groups in Natal in education, development, job creation and reconciliation. It is this programme which readers of *Democracy in Action* should monitor if they wish to assist in dealing with the problem.

□ PAUL GRAHAM is the regional director of IDASA in Natal.

Mamelodi message moves UPE students

IN a project arranged jointly by IDASA (Eastern Cape) and the University of Port Elizabeth SRC, Dr Nico Smith addressed UPE students on 17 April. Dr Smith, who is perhaps best known for the fact that he has taken up residence in the black Pretoria township of Mamelodi where he is pastor of the black congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church, spoke about "The Role of the Church in a Future South Africa".

One cannot imagine that many in the audience were not deeply moved by what he had to say and the conviction with which he said it. The sincerity of someone who can give account of such first-hand experiences cannot be doubted. He testified to the spirit and resolve of the Mamelodi residents which remains unaffected by the State of Emergency, even though the outward show of force by security forces gives the impression that all resistance has been quelled.

He drew a distinction between what he called the "pre-1948" black person and the "post-1948" black person, explaining the difference in attitudes of people who have had to grow up under the repressive apartheid policies of the Nationalist government since 1948, and those who grew up in the relatively less-racist period before that.

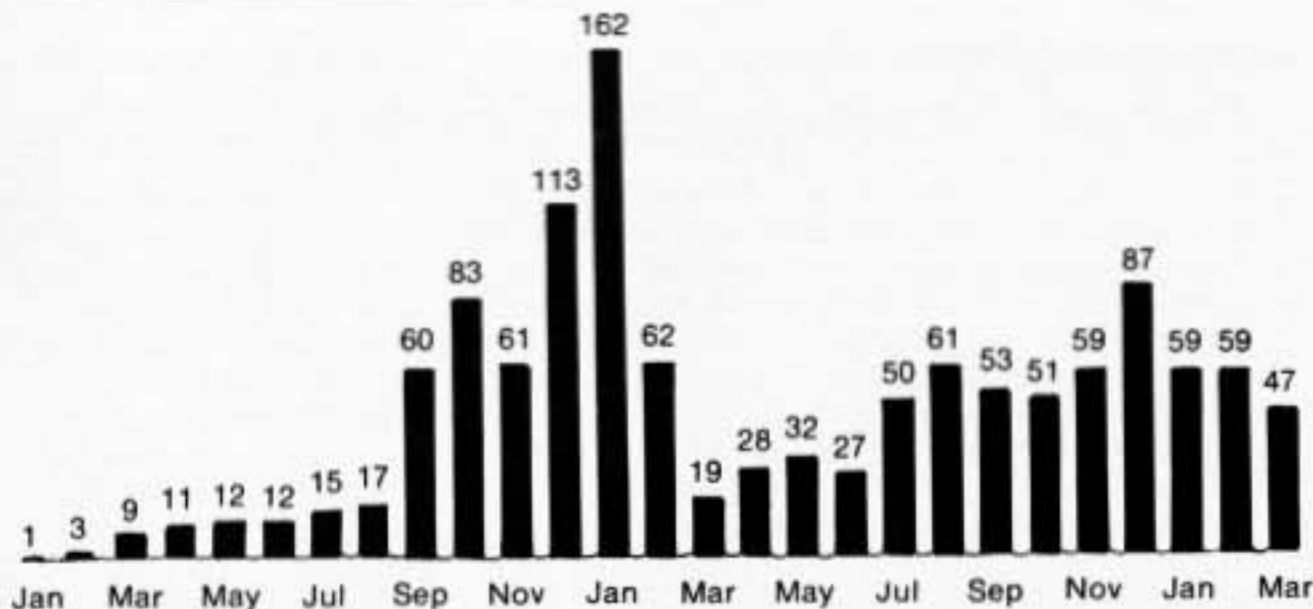
On a lighter note, he related how a black neighbour of his came back from a visit to an affluent white Pretoria suburb, shaking his head dubiously about the hopes of ever persuading whites who have such a strong belief in "one-man-one-pool" to accept "one-man-one-vote".

IDASA wishes to offer their encouragement and support to the University of Port Elizabeth SRC in their attempts to open up a wider debate on their campus.

KEITH WATTRUSS
Co-director, Eastern Cape



Dr Nico Smith, who addressed UPE students on 17 April



DEATHS: 1987 — Mar. 1989, Pietermaritzburg and Natal Midlands

Source: Centre for Adult Education