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Articles printed in **Reality** do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editorial Board

Note: Because the arrival of some of the articles for this issue was delayed, and it will therefore reach subscribers late, we are making it into a double issue: Volume 20 Nos 2 and 3, for March and May, 1988.

We also very much regret that rising costs have forced us to increase our subscription rates, after having kept them at their present rate for four years, a period during which there has been a severe escalation in our costs. The new rates are to be found on page 25.

Editorial Board.

EDITORIALS

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LATEST CRACKDOWN

The main body of this issue of REALITY is devoted to a series of articles on changes which have taken place at the local government level in South Africa in our recent years of upheaval, and how things might develop in that area in the future.

When on February 24th the State President set about, once again, banning some of his principal opponents — organisations and individuals — the question had to be faced again, as it has so often in 40 years of Nationalist rule, "What do we do now?" That question had to be asked after Sharpeville, after Soweto in 1976, after the banning of the Black Consciousness groups in 1977, and after the declaration of each of the two recent States of Emergency. Different people arrived at different answers, some turning to the "armed struggle", some to apathetic capitulation, some to new forms of organisation, some to trying to use the "system" to subvert its basic apartheid intentions.

There is at least the suggestion in some of the articles which follow that there may be new opportunities to be

found in the emerging local government structures to start working against apartheid there. A muted debate has been going on in even more radical extra-parliamentary opposition circles lately over the relative merits of boycott and participation in some of the new institutions the Government is creating. In the Parliamentary field the Progressive Federal Party has now accepted the possibility that it might contest Coloured and Indian seats in the tri-cameral Parliament in future. This was condemned as the worst kind of opportunism by some elements in the UDF but others might think differently, at least at the local government level.

It will be interesting to see how this debate develops. Its outcome could decide the direction in which the extra-parliamentary opposition moves in what promises to be another very difficult period ahead.

Mr Botha's new measures will no more bring opposition to apartheid to an end than did the ones his government has tried before, but they will make his opponents examine their choices once again. □