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COVER PICTURES: Aron Mazel.

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# EDITORIALS

## 1. Beginning of the end of the Bantustans?

It is not often that a military coup brings much good to those upon whom it is inflicted, but it begins to look as if the Transkei might be different. Since General Holomisa took over that sad state he has had most of his time taken up with exposing and rooting out the corruption of the Matanzima's. Now he is moving on to much more controversial issues.

The body of Sabata Dalindyebo, former Paramount Chief of the Tembu nation, which Matanzima consigned to the equivalent of a pauper's grave, has been reinterred with honour. His son has been welcomed home from his Zambian exile with honour too. Now, most daring of all, General Holomisa has appointed a two-man team to report on the possibility of holding a referendum in the territory on the question of whether Transkei should renounce its independence and revert to its former status as part of a greater South Africa.

If the referendum is held and if the vote goes against continuing 'independence', as we suspect it will, Sabata's long fight against the Matanzima's and their Nationalist sponsors will finally have been rewarded. Perhaps we will

even discover what threats and what bribes those were that first brought the Matanzimas to power. For it could hardly be coincidence that, at the Transkei Legislative Assembly's first session, after Sabata's anti-independence Democratic Party had swept the board in all but two of the elected constituencies, and had secured its nominee the post of Assembly Chairman at the first election of office-bearers to the new TLA, a hastily-arranged adjournment at the behest of South African officials, should produce, when the session reconvened, a majority vote for Kaiser Matanzima as Chief Minister. The assumption has to be that some of the Chiefs, whose positions and salaries depended on Pretoria, had somehow been persuaded to change sides during that intermission.

Be that as it may, the spectre of an unpredictable referendum on the independence question in the flagship of the Bantustans must be causing anxious moments in Pretoria. It could be the first signal of the beginning of the end of that particular part of the Verwoerdian dream and the South African nightmare. □