

2. De Klerk's first days.

Mr de Klerk has made as good a start to his Presidency as probably could be expected.

His decision to allow the protest marches to go ahead produced a remarkable and immediate change in the atmosphere in the country. The release of Walter Sisulu and the others, while clearly timed with an eye to the Commonwealth Conference, opens up the real possibility of the start of a negotiating process, however long-drawn-out that may be.

But if Mr de Klerk has established for himself a reservoir of goodwill which nobody could have expected three months ago, the other side of that coin is raised expectations. If the goodwill is to be retained he has to keep

doing good things.

How about starting off by getting rid of the 1913 Land Act?

Black land would almost certainly have to be protected from white purchase in the early stages but the step of throwing open the 80% plus of our white-designated land to purchase by anyone, three-quarters of a century after that iniquitous law was passed, would be a dramatically symbolic and profoundly significant step. It would also allow the redistribution of land, which whites fear so much, to start in an orderly and gradual manner immediately. □

3. Under the Red Flag.

The Red Flag has been much in evidence at recent protest marches.

Some church leaders involved in those marches have protested strongly about this, and understandably, given the experience of Christians and others under the Soviet system which that flag represents. Others seem not to have minded much.

For our part we would like to know what kind of a statement those who are insinuating the flag into the marches are trying to make. If they are paying tribute to the sustained fight the Communist Party has fought against apartheid in South Africa, fair enough. It was what

they were fighting **for** over all those years which worried us. Their unquestioning support of whatever the Moscow line of the day happened to be, whether it was being laid down by Stalin, Khrushchev, Beria or Brezhnev, is hardly a reassuring record on which to base our hopes for the future. Is that what the flag-bearers are asking us to do?

It would indeed be ironic if, having at last escaped from an ideological system based on racial shibboleths long since rejected by the rest of the world, we should now embrace one based on discredited slogans and economic shibboleths from which the Communist world itself is now frantically trying to cut loose. □

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairman: Peter Brown

Consulting Editors: T. V. R. Beard, M. Frost

Members: F. Antonie, N. Bromberger, M. Dyer, C. Gardner,

R. Lawrence, A.S. Mathews, L. Thomas,

J. Unterhalter, M.G. Whisson.

RATES (6 issues — published every two months)

ORDINARY SUBSCRIBERS

S.A. R8,00 p.a.

U.K. £5,00 p.a.

U.S.A. \$8,00 p.a.

DONOR SUBSCRIBERS

S.A. R25,00 p.a.

U.K. £12,00 p.a.

U.S.A. \$20,00 p.a.

REALITY, P.O. Box 1104, Pietermaritzburg 3200 R.S.A.