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COVER PICTURES: Aron Mazel (Top), Natal Witness (Others)

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# EDITORIALS

## 1. Pressing for Negotiation.

On the whole the MDM and the DP have good reason to be pleased with the way their election campaigns went.

The MDM's stay-away achieved a massive disruption of normal life on election day and some of its other campaigns, notably in the hospitals and on Durban's beaches, were a remarkable display of non-violent defiance of apartheid.

In spite of this highly visible extra-parliamentary campaign the Democratic Party regained all the ground lost by the PFP in 1987 election and won a good deal more.

We say **in spite of** deliberately, for, in any previous election, a demonstration of this magnitude would have sent many potential DP voters running for cover behind the skirts of the Nationalist Party. That it didn't happen this time is a good omen for the future. It suggests a growing political maturity amongst whites (over 400,000 voters in this instance); a refusal to be panicked by **swart gevaar** tactics; a realisation that such extra-parliamentary demonstrations will continue to be part of our elections until black South Africans can show what they

feel about how the country should be run in the same way as their white counterparts, by voting with them in those same elections.

Both the DP and the MDM want to achieve a situation where negotiation towards such an end starts. Both did things in this last election which were an embarrassment to the other. We hope that no time will be wasted on recriminations over that. Good sense suggests that both recognise that their roles are not exactly the same, and that their methods may often differ. It should not be beyond their capacity to work out campaigns where the actions of one reinforce what the other is trying to do. We hope that that is what will happen. Those actions should have one main aim in mind, bringing the Nationalist government to the negotiating table quickly, and each one should be weighed carefully to assess whether that is the effect it is likely to have. Whatever the international pressures driving him in that direction may be, from his domestic point of view, it may be important in the next few months for Mr de Klerk to appear to be going there of his own accord, rather than being pushed there by his opponents. But that he should get there soon is certain. □