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regulations

ANC CALLS FOR UNITY

THE disunity that the apartheid regime generate amongst the oppressed people ensures that it gains a longer lease of life, the African National Congress said in a statement from Lusaka earlier this month.

Responding to events in KTC, the ANC made a special appeal to the militant youth to "take the lead in ensuring that all hostilities amongst our people cease at once".

The ANC further said: "It is against the colonial apartheid regime that we should direct our anger and aim our blows. The regimes' police, army, kitskonstabels and paid provocateurs are ceaselessly engaged in fermenting conflict and hostilities amongst the ranks of our people.

In these circumstances it is the primary task of all democratic and liberation forces in the townships to create the conditions in which the differences amongst us are resolved peacefully and without resort to physical violence."

The ANC said that "uniting in action for people's power" will isolate the paid collaborators of the state who instigate and promote "violence amongst and between people".

Meanwhile the situation has been calm at KTC with more and more individuals and organisations calling for peace.

Release Section 29 detainees

THE 1987 Christmas season was an unhappy one for many people with relatives, friends and comrades in detention.

While a large number of detainees are held in terms of emergency regulations, more than 20 are detained under the hated and vicious section 29.

These detainees are held in isolation, have no access to relatives, doctors or lawyers and are regularly interrogated.

Western Cape detainees who are being held under Section 29 are Gary Kruser, of Belgravia, Michael Lubamboof Guguletu, Jenny Schreiner of Rondebosch, Mthetheleli Titana of Paarl, Wellington Nkwandla, Alpheus Ndude of Guguletu, Mbutho Nduku of Guguletu, Bongani Jonas of Guguletu, Monwabisi Maqhogi of Guguletu, Charles Mohlala of Guguletu, Z. Bola, Toni Yengeni of Malunga Park, Mary Ngenmtu of New Crossroads, Caroline Makasi of New Crossroads Chris Giffard of Observatory, Nyamazza Lumka of Worcester, Monde Hokolo, Patric Ndlumbini of Worcester Xolile Magoma of Worcester, Mhlothshana Rasmeni of Worcester, M Malungisa Tusha of Worcester and Justice Dyabooi also of Worcester.

Calls have been made by Progressive Organisations to release all detainees and political prisoners. Applications for the release of Emergency Detainees were heard in Supreme Courts all over the country. But the state continues to detain people without trial.



Colleen Lombard, of Monte Video, is greeted by her husband Rashid outside the Cape Town Magistrates Court last month.

FREE - BUT FOR HOW LONG?

COLLEEN Lombard and Zurayah Abbas, released after five-and-a-half months in detention at the end of January, are now preparing for the possibility of going back to jail.

The two appeared in court charged in terms of the Internal Security Act and were released on bail of R3000. One of the conditions of their bail is that they report to the nearest police station between 6 and 8 pm each evening.

"I can't say I'm not elated to be out," said Colleen. "It gives me a chance to spend some time with my children and loved ones before I go back to jail."

Zurayah says she used to fantasize about her trial while she was in detention.

"I was going to ask them to allow me to spend just one day with

my family before I went to jail. Now I have that time".

Both feel a bit upset about leaving behind Yasmina Pandey, detained with them, who is appearing in the Supreme Court on charges of terrorism next month.

"I visited Yasmina at Pollsmoor two weeks ago and she is so happy that Zurayah and I were released on bail. I feel much better now that I've seen her," said Colleen.

The two were detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act which allows for six months in detention in solitary confinement.

"Section 29 can either strengthen you or you give up completely," said Zurayah.

"It not only strengthened me, but my family and friends as well," said Colleen.

Islam was another fac-



Zurayah Abbas, (right) is greeted by relatives, friends and members of the United Womens Congress (Uwco).

tor which strengthened them in detention.

"Reading the Quran every day was a strengthening experience. I started believing that my prayers would be answered," said Colleen.

"I did a lot of soul-searching in detention," said Zurayah. "I discovered a lot about myself.

Both were consoled by the fact that they knew their families were being supported by the community while they were in detention.

"It was very traumatic knowing that the people outside had to cope with daily living while were in, going to work and school every day," said Colleen,

who has three children.

"Everywhere in the community, at school and friends and relatives have been wonderful.

"All that's ahead now is to prepare ourselves mentally for our trial," said Zurayah.

The two are appearing in the Cape Town Magistrates Court in March.

"Inkatha has free reign in Maritzburg"

OVER 250 people have died in the strife torn area of Pietermaritzburg as violence enters its fifth month with no sign of an end in sight.

The United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions are under constant attack by Inkatha vigilantes. The UDF and Cosatu claim that Inkatha has a free reign in the area, while many of the UDF and Cosatu supporters are detained. The two anti-apartheid organisations

speak of attacks by Inkatha officials, sometimes called warlords, who send gangs of their vigilantes to commit atrocities in the two townships.

More than seven interim court interdicts have been granted against the warlords stopping them from assaulting and killing people.

But lawyers handling the interdicts, have claimed that the Inkatha members carry on

as usual, virtually ignoring the interdicts.

Meanwhile the Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) in Pietermaritzburg estimates that between 800 and 1 000 UDF supporters are presently in detention. Although some Inkatha members are facing criminal charges, not one of their members are in detention. All evidence shows that the UDF and Cosatu is taking the full onslaught of the state in the area.



Women of KTC marched to the Guguletu rent office recently to demand houses. WE NEED NO FIGHTS, BUT HOUSES, HOUSES, the banner declares.

KTC RESIDENTS DEMAND HOUSES

MORE than 100 KTC women were teargassed by police when they marched to the Rent Office in Guguletu on Monday the 1st February to demand houses. This happened after their shacks were destroyed by fire in a fight.

"We decided to go and demand houses from the Rent Offices because in 1983 when we were given sites in KTC we were promised that houses would be built after three years. Five years have passed but instead of houses we got fire" said one woman.

One resident said "We are not prepared to move from one shack to another. What we want is decent houses so that we can live like human beings and not like pigs. The building of houses in KTC is long overdue.

Another woman said "Mr Njoli who claims to be a mayor wants us to squatt somewhere else. We are not prepared to do that. We are not going to be moved from pillar to post I don't know why he regards himself a mayor if he cannot see to the people's needs. What he did was to call the police who then teargassed the women. In any case we do not know why the

police were there because we did not go there to see them (police). If we wanted them we would have gone to the police station.

The residents of KTC

are determined to stay in an open space behind KTC Bazaar until they get proper houses. One resident said "I don't know why our wives must suffer like this. In 1983

they were detained when they demanded houses. Some stayed in jail for two weeks with their babies. But no matter what happens the struggle for houses continues."

Cayco and Uwco says . . . Hands off District 6.

THE Woodstock branches of the United Womens Congress and the Cape Youth Congress have hit out strongly at plans by BP and Ummah Investments to "develop" District 6.

In a joint statement, the two organisations said; "The destruction of District 6 has for many years remained a symbol of the state's callous disregard for communities like Cato Manor and Sophia Town. The Group Areas Act, a cornerstone of the government's apartheid policy has been brutally used to maintain minority rule in S.A. The wastelands of District 6 has for the last 20 years remained an embarrassment to the govern-

ment both nationally and internationally. BP together with 18 other companies have presented proposals for the government's approval."

The statement further says that these proposals aim to use District 6 as a testing ground for the establishment of so-called "Open Areas" and that BP had begun "a concerted propaganda campaign, both nationally and internationally in an attempt to win support for their proposals."

The organisations accused BP of capitalising on the housing shortage, created in the first place by big business and the government, and in doing so

legitimise their continued presence in S.A.

A statement issued by the Call of Islam questioned Ummah Ltd's right to build houses without consulting the community. The Call of Islam saw this as a betrayal of the communities struggle against the Group Areas Act and forced removals nationally and called upon Ummah Ltd. to stop the building of the houses in District 6 immediately.

In response to BP's proposals, community organisations in Woodstock including CAYCO and UWCO branches have come together and launched the "HANDS OFF DISTRICT SIX CAMPAIGN".

No Peace for the elderly

AT an age when most white pensioners would be living out their retirement in peace and prosperity, Mrs Dorothy Zihlangu is in a cold cell in Pollsmoor Prison.

Her crime? Fighting for a free and democratic South Africa. The 67-year-old Guguletu Grandmother was detained at D F Malan Airport more than four months ago and is being held under emergency regulations.

She is a diabetic and is blind in the one eye. Mrs Zihlangu president of the Federation of SA Women (Western Cape Region), is one of a number of elderly Cape Town residents held in apartheid's prisons. Others include Mr Zollie Malindi 68, UDF vice-president and 57-year-old

executive member Mr Mountain Qumbela Mrs Zihlangu's daughter Nontobeko said her brother and two sisters' houses in KTC had been burned down during fights in the squatter camp recently. This had been a source of great concern to her mother. "She told me that she went to hospital as her blood pressure was very high. The trouble in KTC has definitely affected her health."

Meanwhile UDF honorary secretary Trevor Manuel will complete 18 months in detention on February 15.

Cayco president Mzonke Jacobs had been in detention for more than 14 months while former Cayco President Rose Sonto has been held for more than ten months.



Organised workers are showing their power in the factories every day.

LABOUR BILLS A RESPONSE TO UNION GAINS

"WE have not lost. We have emerged a lot stronger than we were," said Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers at the end of the 19-day mineworkers strike last year. Since then, the government has begun working on new labour laws to ensure that the Mineworkers and other striking workers will never win again.

The new Labour Re-

lations Amendment Bill which will be tabled in parliament this year will severely limit the right of workers to go on strike.

The bill is seen as a response to the gains made by unions last year, specially the massive Post Office and South African Transport Services strikes.

The bill will have a serious effect on the right to strike. The Mineworkers Union, for

example, will not be able to draw support from workers in other industries when they strike again.

• The bill makes it illegal to call for "sympathy" strikes. Workers can only strike if they have a grievance against their own bosses.

• Workers cannot strike over the same problem more than once a year. So if a union negotiates wages in January and December in the same year, it will be illegal for them to go on strike both times.

• Unions can be held responsible for damages caused during industrial action. So if the police enter the premises and a few chairs are thrown or windows are broken by fleeing workers, the union will have to pay the company.

• Workers employed for less than a year are not protected if they are unfairly dismissed. In the past, workers could appeal to the industrial court if they had been unfairly dismissed.

The bill also makes allowances for bosses to negotiate with unions who do not have a majority at a particular

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Please apply in writing, with a full Curriculum Vitae to Grassroots PO Box 1161, Cape Town.



ANC executive member Barbara Masekela and exiled writer Hilda Bernstein pictured here at a Church in Amsterdam singing the national anthem.



The Dutch choir sing South African freedom songs to a capacity audience at the Moses and Aaron Kerk.

THE cultural Festival in Holland has come and gone. But for those South Africans who were there, it is an event which will remain in their memories for years to come.

I was fortunate to be one of 150 South Africans who travelled to the anti-apartheid city of Amsterdam early in December to join fellow South Africans who were living in exile in different parts of the world.

South African poets, actors, playwrights, singers, authors, musicians, and journalists were for two exciting (and very cold) weeks, the guests of the people of Amsterdam.

The organisers of the festival, Culture in Another South Africa (Casa) had made a call on Amsterdam residents to accommodate the South Africans. Almost three hundred families opened their doors to us. Casa did not have to fork out a cent for accommodation. By December 10, three days before the grand opening, most of the delegates had arrived. Daily, long lines of bags and baggages could be seen in the corridors outside the Casa office. The labels on many of the bags revealed where the travellers had come from, Canada, Brazil, Tanzania, London, Zimbabwe

and of course, Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

Many of the musicians, poets and other artists came from the ranks of the African National Congress. These exiled South Africans who have had to make homes for themselves in faraway countries were overjoyed to meet so many people from home.

A major cultural festival took place in Amsterdam during December. A Grassroots staff member attended and gives his impressions.

And Casa had brought us together. In a land 6 000 miles from South Africa. In a land from which convicted thief Jan van Riebeeck had set sail in the 17th century to drive our people off their land and colonise our country. It is the country in which many Afrikaners have their roots.

It was therefore strange and astonishing to see the extent of anti-apartheid feeling among large sections of the Dutch people. It was even stranger to discover that the African National Congress enjoys the support of many ordinary Dutch citizens.

When Alfred Nzo, ANC secretary-General addressed the 1 500 strong audience at the opening night h newly-

FREEDOM SONGS IN THE LAND OF VAN RIEBEEK

The next night, there was more entertainment. Dollar Brand was given a standing ovation at the Stadschouwberg Theatre. The musician from Manenberg who has been living in exile for more than two decades was absolutely superb on the piano and flute.

Much has been written about the cultural conference which took place at the Bellevue theater from Monday 14 to Friday 18 December.

Numerous papers were delivered and the 300 delegates engaged in serious discussion on building a progressive people's culture. Much of the discussion was positive, but it might have been useful if the delegates had been part of preparatory conferences, before they departed for the festival.

It was also a pity that the country's rural

areas where people have offered brave resistance to apartheid in recent years were not represented at all.

Throughout the festival, plays, videos, poetry readings and concerts took place on a daily basis. More than a dozen venues were used. The shows were mostly booked out. The people of Amsterdam had clearly demonstrated their support for the struggle in South Africa.

Bhopho, Sophiatown, Wathint Abafazi, the Cosatu Choir. These names could be seen daily in the Dutch newspapers advertising the different programmes. The newspapers gave extensive coverage to the festival.



Abdullah Ebrahiem (Dollar Brand) at the Casa festival.

South Africans who lived in their homes, was an enriching experience. For those in exile, their brief contact with the country of their birth had come to a sudden end. For the South Africans, there was the enormous task of implementing the decisions of the festival.

For all those who had come to Amsterdam the message was clear, Aluta continue... The struggle continues..

built Musiektheater, he was given a resounding applause.

Then the music, singing and dancing began. A wide range of South African talent was on display. Mitchells Plain Basil Coetzee and his jazz band Sebenza, Zakhene, a group of young gumboot dancers from Soweto, The Genuines from Cape Town with their Goema-Goema beat, the ANC's colourful and lively Amandla Cultural Group, Ntsikane, a local marimba group who have played on the Grand Parade from time to time, Jonas Gwangwa and his band, and Soweto's Jazz Pioneers all entertained the audience for more than four hours.

The Save the Children group from Soweto had many of the Dutch people in tears as they sang about the suffering of the people in the township. The four young children's powerful voices could be heard in every corner of the Musiektheater as they sang "We are the children of Peace".

For me, and I suspect I can speak for more South Africans, the group that made the biggest impact, was the Dutch choir who sang a number of South African freedom songs. I was overcome with emotion as Mbatho Nhlahlala led the 180 Dutch men and women on to the stage singing Senzenina. If I had closed my eyes, I could so easily have been back in South Africa. The choir sang about the South African struggle from their hearts.



ANC executive member Thabo Mbeki speaks to the press during the Casa festival.

Children released, but still not free

THE detention of thousands of children in South Africa in recent years has been condemned by Governments and human rights groups throughout the world. While many of the children are now no longer behind bars, their suffering continues outside the prison walls.

In Bonteheuwel, there are 16 young people who are denied the pleasures in life which so many others take for granted. Many of them were held under the emergency regulations last year, but were released after tremendous pressure from the community. They were however severely restricted on release. They have to be in their homes from 6 o'clock every evening and have to report weekly to the Bishop Lavis Police Station.

Grassroots spoke to family and friends of the youth who said the teenagers were going through hell. One parent commented: "Our children are not allowed to live a full life. They are not able to go to parties, bioscope and be with their friends after 6 o'clock at night. Many students go to nearby sportsfields at night to practice for the athletics. 16 children are denied this opportunity."

Another parent told Grassroots that he was

"very disgusted and upset that our children are treated like sheep. They are allowed to graze the fields during the day but at night have to return to their kraals. They have been released from their prison cells but are still not free to do the things they would like to. What sort of life is this for any young person?"

A spokesperson for the UDF area committee of the Bonteheuwel area committee of the United Democratic Front (UDF) expressed concern over the restrictions of the children, some as young as 14. The UDF told Grassroots: "The continued victimization of our children can only add to the growing anger of the community."

At the time of their arrest, the Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok caused an uproar when he announced that there were no persons under the age of 16 in detention. However, there are two fourteen year olds among the 16. They were in detention at the time of the Minister's statement.

Charges have not yet been formulated but in another matter the police mentioned that they were investigating 300 counts of arson, public violence and intimidation.

**grassroots
comment**

**WATCH
THE
DIVIDE
AND
RULE
TACTIC**

SINCE 1985, Botha has been like a prisoner in a cell. He is closed in on all sides by millions of South Africans. Our united struggle against apartheid keeps Botha in a prison. Botha can go nowhere — everywhere he turns people see "divisions apartheid, forward to people's power".

But what does a person do when he is imprisoned? He tries to escape. He looks for cracks in the wall. If the prisoner finds a crack, he does everything he can to make it wider. Every prisoner knows that if there are enough wide cracks, the wall can be broken down.

Just like other prisoners, Botha has been looking for cracks. He has looked everywhere to see where there are cracks and divisions among the people. Where Botha has found divisions, he has tried to make them wider. He wants our people to fight each other. He wants our organisations to split.

Botha hopes that if he can find enough splits and divisions among us, then he can escape. He hopes that our people will fight each other, and ignore his vicious apartheid system.

Botha's men have looked for divisions everywhere. In some places, we are sad to say, he has found them. Sometimes it was agents of the system, like in Pietermaritzburg, who created violence and chaos in communities. In other places like KTC, the system has tried to exploit differences among our people. The system tries to spread mistrust and suspicion in our organisations.

Grassroots believes that divisions among the oppressed people are created by apartheid. They help Botha to escape from his prison. Today we need the broadest united action of all people against Botha we can defeat apartheid and all its dirty tricks.

We say AWAY WITH DIVISIONS! FORWARD WITH UNITED ACTION!

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IN South Africa, millions of people are homeless. They are denied one of the most basic necessities in life a roof over your head. The authorities admit that there are over a million "squatters" in various parts of the country. This, of course, excludes the tens of thousands of our people who have to live in terribly overcrowded conditions with family or friends.

The denial of homes to so many of South Africa's citizens is one of the worst forms of human rights abuses. At a time when Botha daily speaks of the changing situation in the country, the wonderful reforms that are taking place, millions stream on to the streets everyday begging for work. Millions more are yearning for a home of their own. The problem is not improving — it is getting worse.

The Freedom Charter — drawn up in 1955 says . . . There shall be houses, security and comfort. The people have repeatedly made this demand in recent years.

On these pages, Grassroots looks at the problem of homelessness and the suffering it causes.



A lifetime of searching for a home . . . These former Crossroads residents waiting to hear where they are to be moved to.

**NO PLACE TO
LIVE**



October 1985 and crossroads burns: The poverty and squalor has led to divisions in many squatter communities.

The struggle of squatters throughout the country is a struggle for land. Ever since black people were deprived of their land in 1913, squatter communities have sprung up. Thousands of families have refused to move to land allocated to them by the government.

The demands of the squatters are simple. All they ask for is a decent place to live — a demand which should be a right granted to all citizens of South Africa. The response of the State has been brutal. Thousands of communities have been uprooted, with people sent to live miles away from their birthplace and place of work.

The State estimates that there are 1.2 million squatters in South Africa. This figure could be double the amount as people move in to squatter areas daily. They estimate that there are 200-000 squatters in the Western Cape. None of them are on official waiting lists for houses.

In Cape Town, the heroic struggles of the squatters have brought their plight to the attention of the world. Crossroads was put on the map in 1982 when squatter women openly defied the State by refusing to be forcibly removed to the homelands. Hundreds of women were piled into buses to be shipped out to the homelands where there was no housing or jobs. The women refused to leave and no amount of threats could get them to go.

The Western Cape was, in the past, a coloured labour preference area. The authorities discouraged African people from moving to Cape Town in large numbers. But the homelands did not have sufficient jobs or housing for the millions of people forced to live there, so hundreds streamed to the cities to look for work.

The backlog is colossal housing that always existed with more than 400,000 people on the waiting list for housing. These people have also

been forced to squatter. Because Blacks were in Cape Town illegally, these people could not get housing and were forced to set up squatter camps. For years these camps have come under attack from the authorities with hundreds of shacks bulldozed to the ground during the Cape's rainy winters.

Squatter communities were peaceful with residents living in harmony together. The harmony was shattered when the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Piet Koornhof, embarked on a campaign to destroy squatter communities. Crossroads were provided with housing in areas far away like Mitchell's Plain and Atlantis. Promises were made to upgrade Crossroads and provide housing and facilities for the community.

But a new, sinister tactic to control squatters emerged. A battle for political control over urban black communities began. During the last two years four squatter communities were virtually destroyed in wildcat attacks. At Portland Common, Nyanga Bush, Nyanga Extension and KTC, hundreds of shacks have been destroyed. Struggles of co-option, divide and rule began to appear on the scene.

Wildcat leaders were given authority to decide on the fate of the squatters — a deliberate attempt to discredit the democratically elected leaders of the community. KTC became a prime target for raids by the security forces because of the militancy of the community.

Residents organised marches, fasts and mass meetings to campaign for houses. None of their demands have been met. Forced removals continue. The recent Noordhoek removal to Khayelitsha and the threatened communities of Red Hill and Disa River are still examples of the State's refusal to give in to the demand for land.

**Many homeless
in Lotus River**

THE Lotus Advice Office recently pointed out that a serious squatter problem has developed off 8th Avenue in Lotus River. It is not that these people have only recently moved onto the vacant property. They have been there for a number of years. Some have lived there for more than twenty years.

Generations of families have grown up in the peaceful, farm-like atmosphere. Many of the residents who spoke to the advice office worker said that they were happy living close to nature and living in peace with one another. One resident told of how they would fish for trout in their river if they had no food.

Many of the people are unemployed and many live off government grants. They find it difficult to make cash meet. The fact that they do not pay rent helps a bit but there are also other problems. During winter the area is water-logged and unpleasant and this leads to various health problems.

At the end of last year, just before Christmas the people were approached by an unknown person and told that they must vacate the property. Houses were to be built in the area and it said that their houses were hindering the development of other houses.

This brought a wave of concern to the people at a time of the year when all should be at peace.

These people have nowhere else to go and do not want their little community to be broken. The fact that the Divisional Council (now Regional Services Council, RSC) had not made provision for the expanding housing problem, made matters worse. These people have all been on RSC's wait-

ing list for a number of years. Like thousands of others, they are still waiting. When they spoke to Mr Ebrahim, all they got were empty promises.

The day that the bulldozers were to destroy the area, Council sent two men to the site. They pointed to look into the matter and told people to remain there until they came back with a response.

Council, however, wants to move the people to Atlantis and Bellar. The people do not see this as an answer to their problems. It means that they have to uproot their lives and start afresh in a new area.

One woman said: "My son is ill. He gets the fits. The hospital has put him in a special school. A bus comes to fetch him every day. The school is expensive but we are managing. But how are we going to get transport from Atlantis or Bellar?"

Another person said: "The expense of living so far will be great and many of us can't find work." The council wants to put these people into houses of tenants who have been evicted. A resident said: "What will happen if we can't pay our rent? Will RSC then also put us out? We will rather remain here where we have some happiness."

The RSC's plans will not solve these people's problems. What the people are demanding is for houses to be built in their own areas. Land is available. They are also demanding houses they can afford and that people should not be evicted if they cannot pay rent. Their problem is our problem. The community must unite and put pressure on the RSC to give everyone a better deal.



An open piece of land with a shack is home for these Lotus River people.

**Disa River families
refusing to
leave**

SQUATTERS at the Disa River settlement near Hout Bay have been given notice to leave the area that they have been living in all their lives.

The 15 families living there are refusing to leave. Their eviction notice was dated December 31 last year, but they are still living there.

The residents have organised a range of activities to halt the demolishing of the site. They held candlelight vigils on the road below the camp and sent a deputation to the Regional Services Council (RSC) in protest against their removal. They were named away from the RSC offices and have not managed to get the owner of the land they occupy to a meeting.

Most of the residents at Disa River have lived there all their lives. The oldest member of the community, Mrs Lillian Anthony is 67 and was born in Hout Bay. Most of the people living there are related to her.

"When I was born there were only farms here in Hout Bay" she said. "Since then the area has developed, but nobody has ever found a home for us. We seem to be on the permanent waiting list."

She said all the men living in the squatter camp were employed in Hout Bay and the children went to school in the area. "We just want decent homes in Hout Bay, not to be moved to some other place". Mrs Anthony said. "It is our home. Why do we have to move?"



The people of Disa River near Hout Bay are determined not to move.



waiting to hear where they are to be moved to.

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The day that the bulldozers were to destroy the area, Council sent two men to the site. They promised to look into the matter and told people to remain there until they came back with a response.

Council, however wants to move the people to Atlantis and Belhar. The people do not see this as an answer to their problems. It means that they have to uproot their lives and start afresh in a new area.

One woman said: "My son is ill. He gets the fits. The hospital has put him in a special school. A bus comes to fetch him every day. The school is expensive but we are managing. But how are we going to get transport from Atlantis or Belhar?"

Another person said: "The expense of living so far will be great and many of us can't find work."

The council wants to put these people into houses of tenants who have been evicted. A resident said: "What will happen if we can't pay our rents? Will RSC then also put us out? We will rather remain here where we have some happiness."

The RSC's plans will not solve these people's problems. What the people are demanding is for houses to be built in their own areas. Land is available. They are also demanding houses they can afford and that people should not be evicted if they cannot pay rent. Their problem is our problem. The community must unite and put pressure on the RSC to give everyone a better deal.

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been forced to squat. Because Blacks were in Cape Town illegally, these people could not get housing and were forced to set up squatter camps. For years these camps have come under attack from the authorities with hundreds of shacks bulldozed to the ground during the Cape's rainy winters.

Squatter communities were peaceful with residents living in harmony together. The harmony was shattered when the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Piet Koornhof, embarked on a campaign to destroy squatter communities. Coloureds were provided with housing in areas far away like Mitchell's Plain and Atlantis. Promises were made to upgrade Crossroads and provide housing and facilities for the community.

But a new, sinister tactic to control squatters emerged. A battle for political control over urban black communities began. During the last two years four squatter communities were virtually destroyed in witdoek attacks. At Portland Cement, Nyanga Bush, Nyanga Extension and KTC, hundreds of shacks have been destroyed. Strategies of co-option, divide and rule began to appear on the scene.

Witdoek leaders were given authority to decide on the fate of the squatters - a deliberate attempt to discredit the democratically elected leaders of the community. KTC became a prime target for raids by the security forces because of the militancy of the community.

Residents organised marches, fasts and mass meetings to campaign for houses. None of their demands have been met.

Forced removals continue. The recent Noordhoek removals to Khayelitsha and the threatened communities of Red Hill and Disa River are still examples of the State's refusal to give in to the demand for land.



An open piece of land with a shack is home for these Lotus River people.

Disa River families refusing to leave

SQUATTERS at the Disa River settlement near Hout Bay have been given notice to leave the area that they have been living in all their lives.

The 15 families living there are refusing to leave. Their eviction notice was dated December 31 last year, but they are still living there.

The residents have organised a range of activities to halt the demolishing of the site. They held candlelight vigils on the road below the camp and sent a deputation to the Regional Services Council (RSC) in protest against their removal. They were turned away from the RSC offices and have not managed to get the owner of the land they occupy to a meeting.

Most of the residents at Disa River have lived there all their lives. The oldest member of the community, Mrs Lilian Anthony is 67 and was born in Hout Bay. Most of the people living there are related to her.

"When I was born there were only farms here in Hout Bay" she said. "Since then the area has developed, but nobody has ever found a home for us. We seem to be on the permanent waiting list."

She said all the men living in the squatter camp were employed in Hout Bay and the children went to school in the area. "We just want decent home in Hout Bay, not to be moved to some other place", Mrs Anthony said. "It is our home. Why do we have to move?"



The people of Disa River near Hout Bay are determined not to move.

Palestinians revolt against forces of occupation

ISRAELI TERROR

FOR the past two months, our television screens and newspapers have been full of pictures of revolt. Young men and women wearing keffiyas move about in groups. Suddenly they take out a flag of black, green, red and white and shout slogans. Heavily armed soldiers fire tear-gas and then bullets. Demonstrators who are caught are viciously beaten. Representatives of the government announce that they will "restore law and order" at any price.

This may sound like Belgravia Road in 1985, but its actually thousands of kilometres away - in Palestine. Israel is one of the closest allies of apartheid, and they are now showing the world that they intend to deal with the protests of unarmed people in the same way.

When Israel was set up in 1948, many Palestinians were driven from their homes and forced into exile. Then, in 1967, Israel seized more Palestinian land - the West Bank and Gaza. For 20 years the Israeli army has occupied the West Bank and Gaza. 800 000 Palestinians live under Israeli military rule in these areas.

The Israelis seized much of the land of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. They brought Israelis to settle on this land, while many Palestinians have to live in refugee camps. The camps are dirty and health is poor. There are very few jobs, and those who work are paid very little.

The Palestinians have always resisted those who took their land. Under the banner of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), they have demanded their rights as a nation. The PLO have led a military, diplomatic and political struggle against Israel.

The PLO call for a "secular and democratic Palestine" where Jews and Arabs can live side by side. Their struggle is not purely a Muslim one, or even an Arab one. Within the PLO, there are Muslims, Christians, atheists and even a small number of Jews. Its doors are open to all those who share its ideals.



This family was left homeless after their houses was bombed during an Israeli attack on Lebanon.

At times the PLO has had to fight against Arab countries like Jordan and Egypt who have tried to sell out the Palestinian struggle and make deals with Israel. These countries are all influenced by the United States, which has tried to stop the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Ever since the Israelis arrived in the West Bank and Gaza, the Palestinian people have struggled to throw them out. They have formed political organisations, demonstrated and marched, called stayaways and even fought an armed struggle.

The people of the West Bank and Gaza have demanded that they be allowed to govern themselves. They demand that Israel must withdraw.

The response of the Israelis has been detention, banning newspapers and organisations, deporting activists, tear-gas, batons and bullets against the Palestinians. They refuse to leave the West Bank and Gaza, and

allow the Palestinians to rule themselves. Instead the Israelis continue with repression, and try and settle on even more Palestinian land.

The resistance of the Palestinians has been strong. Israel always tried to find Palestinian collaborators, who would betray their people for a few favours. Jordan has helped the Israelis in this task by forming political organisations which were anti-PLO. The Palestinian people have rejected all such moves. In their hundreds of thousands they have shown their support for the PLO.

The Israelis have killed more than 40 Palestinians since December 9, but the struggle continues. In 20 years, the Israelis have not been able to govern the West Bank and Gaza. No occupying army can hold out forever against a united people. So, as we watch the Palestinian struggle flickering on our TV screens, we know we are watching a people who are close to their goal.



A mass demonstration by the Palestinians in the Gaza strip was violently broken up by Israeli troops. Teargas was fired at the angry demonstrators and many were arrested. The Palestinian women (above) is in agony from the effects of teargas. A youth tries to comfort her.



Palestinian youth burn tyres and raise the Palestinian flag in the village of Ram after a 25-year-old woman was shot and killed by an Israeli women.

State propaganda on the increase

Dear Grassroots,
Since the declaration of the second State of Emergency the state has advanced its propaganda through Graffiti and pamphleteering, particularly in the townships with the aim of discrediting the people's organisations like Civic, UWCO, Cayco, YCS, UDF and Cosatu.

State Graffiti has moved to the extent of assassinating the characters of our leaders, like Mandela, Tambo, Slovo, Tutu, Boesak but this has failed to dismiss the trust of our people for their leaders. The people have exhausted their energies fighting State Graffiti through writings that promote their call for an end to national oppression and

exploitation.
State pamphleteering has also propagated disunity among the people. For example, factions in KTC are a result of state propaganda, sending its lies about people's democratic organisations that are daily involved in the struggle for houses, security and comfort. To students they have

issued pamphlets appealing to them to sign DET's registration forms, and claiming that the Government has met with the student's leadership about the whole issue of registration.
What I can say about State propaganda is that it is well organised, and it is specifically aimed at planting seeds

of disunity among our people. It is there to steal hope, faith and to eradicate the belief that people can ever achieve genuine freedom. It praises racism as the only normal way of living.
We need to make concrete plans to counter this propaganda. Yours in the struggle Siculo Mkhosi

SIGNS ON THE WALLS

How can I be expected
To live with no innovation
In a coercive situation? **by: PETER NEWMAN**

Should I go about
As if being blindfolded, deceived
By this notorious state (of emergency)?
Neither do I want to live
With self-contempt nor shame.

"The pen is mightier
Than the sword";
The spraycan is mightier
Than the RI;
And the signs are on the walls:
'THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN';
The signs are on the walls:
'FREEDOM CAN'T BE IMPRISONED';
The signs are on the walls:
'UMKHONTO UYEZA'

My outcry "INKULULEKO" is being deadened
By the explosion of the judge's hammer;
Hammering and hammering;
Jingling of gigantic keys;
Hammering and hammering;
Slamming of massive doors,
Of solid steel
And the hammering continues;
But the signs remain on the walls:
'RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, NOW'.

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TOPS FOR TASTE

GRASSROOTS INVESTIGATED

CHARGES under the police act are being investigated against Grassroots, the staff and executive learned late last month.

The investigation arises from an article in the September 1987 edition of Grassroots in which a Graaff-Reinet resident writes about the shooting of residents in the area. In terms of Section 27b of the Police Act, it is an offence for a publication to publish inaccurate or false reports about police action.

A visit by two policemen came only a few days after the Grassroots office reopened following the December holidays. The Grassroots full-time organiser is expected to receive a summons to appear in court in the near future.

During 1987, Grassroots Publications was the victim of state repression with several publications being banned for distribution. These included the December edition of Grassroots newsletter which carried a big front page story on ANC leader Govan

Mbeki, three editions of Learning Roots, a student Publication and three editions of New Era political magazine.

In addition, Youth Express, a collection of poems, plays, graphics, posters and other art submitted in a Grassroots competition during 1985, was also banned.

Since its inception in 1980, Grassroots has come under constant attack, with several editions being banned, employees being harassed, and the Grassroots office being gutted by a mysterious fire in October 1985.

State repression is expected to intensify this year, as the Government is clearly showing its determination to act against the alternative media.

Any action against the alternative media, will not go unnoticed, however. Already the eyes of the world are Africa and curbs against the media was high on the Agenda at a recent meeting of the Commonwealth.

Percy Qoboza a fighter for human rights

PERCY QOBOZA, former editor of City Press, died in Johannesburg last month.

Qoboza became well-known internationally for his coverage of Soweto 1976, and received awards and scholarships from many universities.

He started his career in 1963 as a learner reporter on The World newspaper in Johannesburg. Five years later he was promoted to news editor of the paper and became editor in 1974.

1977, a day which

On October 19, became known as "Black October" the government clamped down on Black Consciousness organisations and banned both the World and Weekend World. Qoboza was detained under Section 10 of the Internal Security Act and held at Modderbee Prison until his release on March 10, 1978. He was then appointed editor of the Post and Sunday Post. In 1984 he joined City Press and remained editor until his death.



Basil Coetzee in action at the Jive for jobs concert held in Mitchells Plain earlier this month.

Call to support the unemployed

ACCORDING to statistics, 60,9 percent of people living in Mitchells Plain are jobless - 50,9 percent of those are breadwinners.

Perhaps for those who have never been without work, it is difficult to understand what unemployment means. Perhaps they are not aware of the sad and humiliating effects of unemployment.

Evictions, child and wife-beating, mental disturbance, crime and begging are the most frequent in a long list.

For the Mitchells Plain Advice Office, which deals with unemployment and its results everyday, the plight of the unemployed is a priority.

It is for this reason that it decided to hold a music festival. The "Jive for Jobs" gig was aimed at general public whose awareness and concern of the problem was thought to be high. Proceeds of the gig would have been used by the Advice Office, aided by the small Business Corporation, to establish a job

creation scheme for the unemployed. The scheme would involve the production of different crafts.

This aim now seems more difficult to achieve. Very few people attended the gigs.

Although most of the artist played without charging, the cost of organising the show was far more than what was received in takings at the door.

An Advice Office worker, commenting on the failure, said: "I believe that people out there do not understand the need to help the unemployed, it is in a sense rather selfish . . . The failure is, of course, not just the bad attendance but also poor advertising."

The Advice Office does not see the event as a complete failure, however. It intends looking at other ways of getting money to start the job creation scheme. Community organisations and concerned residents are asked to contact them if they feel they can be of any assistance.

Phone Tyrone or Salamah at the Mitchells Plain Advice Office at 32-2707.

grassroots advice AIDS IS A KILLER DISEASE

THERE are thousands of us who have either heard or read about Aquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome more commonly known as AIDS. But often we do not know what it is or how one gets AIDS.

In this article Grassroots look at what Aids is, who can get Aids and how one can get it.

What is Aids?

With people who are suffering from Aids, the Immune system or white cells (cells that fight germs in your body) are infected by a virus called HIV Virus. This weakens your immune system or white cells so that it cannot fight diseases in your body. The virus stays in your body and a cure against it has yet to be found.

Aids sufferers develop a kind of sickness because the body is unable to fight even the mildest infections. Rare forms of pneumonia and diarrhoea or even cancer or brain damage are common amongst Aids sufferers. Anyone who is an Aids sufferer can die within 2 or 3 years.

Not all people who have HIV virus will get Aids themselves. But they can carry it over to other people. They are called Aids carriers.

How one can get Aids

There are three ways in which people can be infected.

1. Through blood transfusion: Getting blood that is infected by HIV virus.
2. Using a needle which has been used by an infected person to inject drugs.
3. or having sexual intercourse with someone who is an Aids carrier.

All blood used in transfusion in S.A. is first tested for Aids. So there is no fear of contracting the disease through blood transfusion. If you do have sexual intercourse with someone that you don't know well and who could be an Aids carrier, use condoms (FL's). This is the safest way to prevent you from being infected by the virus.

You CANNOT get AIDS in any of the following situations:

- * an infected person sneezing or coughing near you.
- * a mosquito which bites an infected person and then bites you.
- * an infected person touching you or cutting your hair.
- * washing in the same basin and using the same toilet as an infected person.

Where can you go for help?

If you think that you are infected by the AIDS virus you can go to your nearest clinic or Doctor for help, or you can go to the outpatient department at Somerset Hospital for a free Aids test.

In our next issue, we will have more information on the dangerous disease.

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grassroots SPORT

EXCITEMENT BUILDS UP FOR FESTIVAL

THE Sacos festival planned for March and April in Cape Town promises to be an exciting event with thousands of sportspersons from all parts of the country participating.

If the 1982 festival is anything to go by, then the gymnastada will again be very spectacular and attract many parents and relatives of the participants.

Presently, the gymnastada will involve about 1600 students from primary schools, Senior Schools and tertiary institutions.

Hundreds of athletes, soccer players, cricketers, hockey players and others from different codes of sport are hard at work preparing for the festival. They are expected to arrive in Cape Town towards the end of March.

Most of the festival will take place over the easter period, but the build up will already start weeks before.

The festival will be launched with a

press conference sometime during march. During the third week of march, on a date to be confirmed, Sacos will be joined by other progressive organisations in a public launch of the festival.

A 15km twilight fun run which will start outside Wembly Roadhouse in Belgravia Road, Athlone, is open to the public. There will be a 3km run for primary schools and 5km run for high schools. The athletes in the open section will run in the 15km race.

Prizes in the fun run will be awarded for the first three places in each race as well as to schools or teams which can be used for club funds or, in the case of educational institutions, for school sport equipment.

The events will be held at various venues, including Athlone stadium and the University of the Western Cape sports stadium. The festival will end on April 6 with a day of athletics at UWC.

Atlantis Residents campaign for sportsfields

SPORTS organisations in Atlantis are angry about the latest attempts of the Atlantis management committee to take control of the sportsfields in the area. The Management committee are planning to appoint a Sport Administrator who will take over most of the functions of the Sportsboard.

This is all part of the national strategy of the regional services council to break the hold that progressive organisations has on the use of the sportsfields in areas in particular those who are affiliated to the South African Council of Sport (SACOS).

Sports bodies and community organisations in Atlantis stand united in their rejection of the decision of the Atlantis Management Committee.

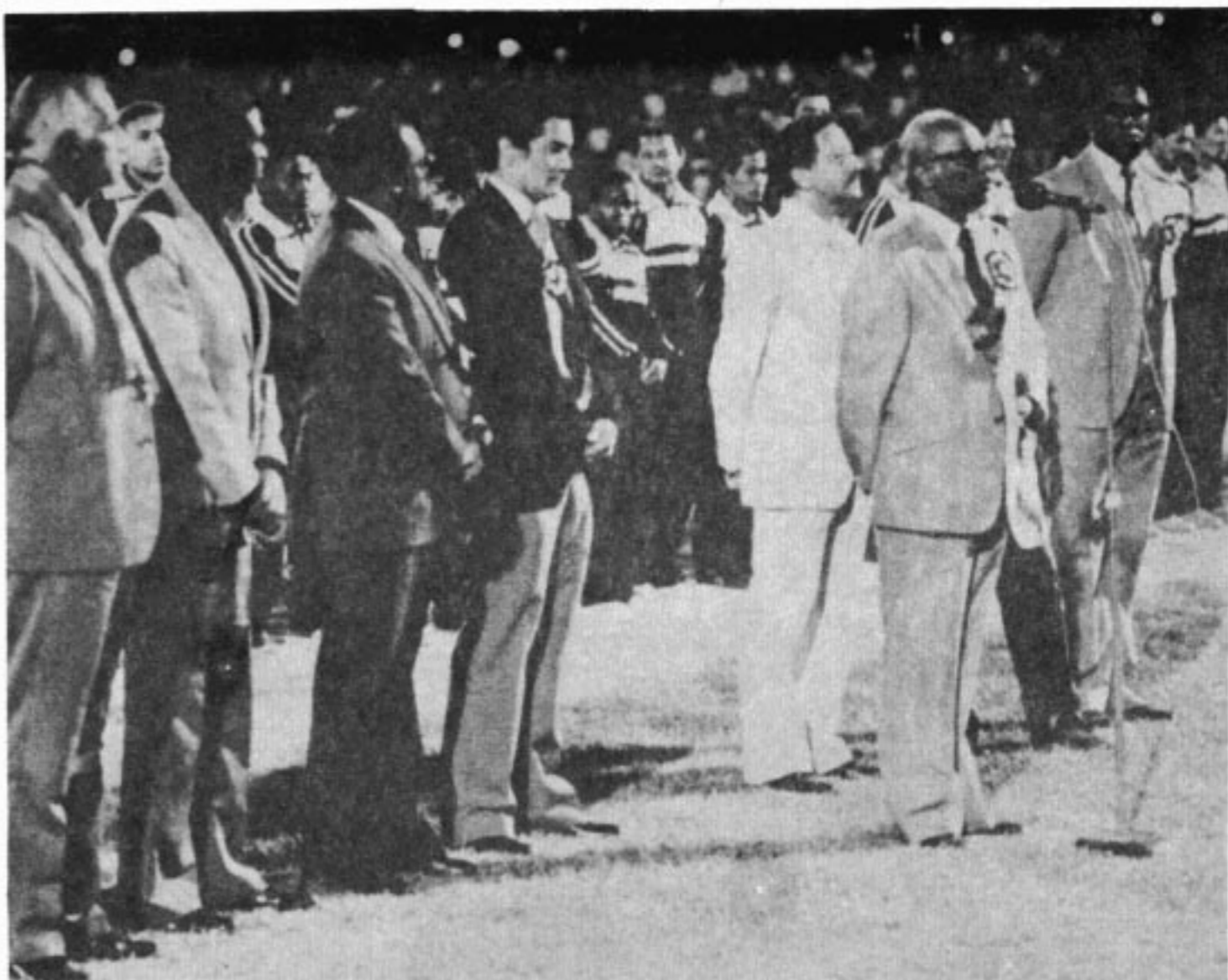
At a recent Sportsboard meeting, members spoke out against the appointment of a sport administrator in the area.

Some of the reasons that were given were that the Atlantis Sport board is a democratic body elected by the sports people of the area. The Sport administrator on the other hand will be appointed by the Management committee. The appointment of an Administrator

would be further financial burden on the area.

The Sportboard presently represents more than 15 000 school students in the area.

AT a public meeting earlier this month, about 100 people rejected the latest move. Addressing the meeting, Sacos chairperson Frank van der Horst said that the appointment of a sports administrator is part of the states' attack on non-racial sport and progressive organisations. The meeting endorsed the decision by the sports Board to campaign against the appointment in Atlantis.



FLASHBACK: Sacos leaders at the 1982 festival.

Working towards national unity

THE South African Council of Sport (Sacos) will be holding its second national sports festival this year, bringing together non-racial sportspersons countrywide.

Grassroots interviewed Sacos President Frank Van der Horst about the organisations' plans for the festival.

Why is Sacos organising the festival?

Van der Horst: The Festival will serve many purposes. Firstly, it will give recognition and honour to non-racial sportspersons who suffer under exploitative and oppressive system of apartheid capitalism but who have nonetheless achieved the highest standards in non-racial sport. It will further build national unity of all sportspersons who are mainly workers and students and will build the non-racial sports movement under Sacos for a future liberated society.

The Festival will help to build the vanguard working class in the liberation struggle, both in sport and society as a whole. It will consolidate total opposition to mercenary sporting tours who collaborate with apartheid sport as well as consolidate our membership of the Supreme Council on Sport in Africa and the recognition by anti-apartheid movements and organisations throughout the world who support our principled fight for freedom.

The last festival was held in 1982. What were the gains from that festival?

Van der Horst: A great spirit of national unity prevailed with players from all over the country coming together to play in what has become known as the Olympics of the oppressed. The non-racial

sports education project grew out of the games. It built unity between sports organisations, trade unions, civic, students, youth, women, community and political organisations who demonstrated that we are one people in one struggle for one liberation. **Which affiliates of Sacos will be participating in this year's festival?**

Van der Horst: All affiliates will participate. There will be a gymnastada in which primary, secondary and tertiary institutions will participate. Other affiliates will take part in top class events where the best of each code will play each other in exciting matches. The top team in each sport will be selected and awarded national honours.

How is Sacos going to involve grassroots sportspersons in the festival?

Van der Horst: Every attempt is being made to involve the grassroots person. The Wembley fun run which will kick off the festival is one such attempt. In addition, the gymnastada provides popular appeal to parents, relatives and friends of the participants. Cultural items will be presented between matches by organisations such as Musical Action for People's Power. A Public launch will be held where all progressive people's organisations will be invited to join Sacos in launching the festival.

How often will festivals like this one be held?

Van der Horst: The festival was supposed to be an annual event, but this was not possible because of a serious shortage of funds. Due to a lack of sponsorship and a bad economic climate, we were forced to postpone the event. Numerous small sponsorships had made Sacos Festival 88 a viable proposition. We still hope this will become an annual event.

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