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## EDITORIALS

### 1. The Namibian Miracle

A large part of this issue of REALITY is appropriately devoted to Namibia and its independence.

When one thinks back to the situation a year ago, or even to the tragic shambles of SWAPO's return across the border, what has happened there has been nothing short of miraculous

That all those years of trading blows, military and verbal, should have ended in a Constituent Assembly which, with

apparent unanimity, could produce a constitution rooted in Liberal principles is quite astonishing.

No doubt many difficulties lie ahead. Walvis Bay is an obvious one, and the sinister figure of Eugene Terreblanche trying to stir up the Basters could be another, but the extraordinary sense of goodwill which seems to be shared by the main political leaders is a wonderful omen for the future. □

### 2. Negotiations: No Time to Waste

Could South Africa emulate the Namibian miracle?

It won't if serious negotiations don't start soon and move quickly.

While potential negotiators spar and try to score points they hope will impress or reassure their constituence, things are starting to go badly wrong down there at the grassroots.

The violent chaos after the Ciskei coup and the horrifying upsurge in the Natal conflict, including large-scale attacks on non-Inkatha communities, have not only left a lot

of people dead, and many others with everything they owned destroyed, they have probably put paid to any hopes of new investment in both areas, and may indeed have started a flight of what there already is. In Natal a variety of leaders make calls for peace, some more convincing than others, but nobody takes much notice. The urge to vengeance is too strong for that, and it seems that only a virtual armed occupation of the main centres of conflict will bring peace. And for how long? Not for long, until the leaders of both factions are seen together, in the field, wherever trouble threatens, telling their supporters to come to their senses.