

**THE ARGUS**

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If 1990 involved different parties to negotiation defining and staking out their positions, 1991 will see more serious attempts at them trying to engage each other in bargaining compromises. From the Government's side, this will have to be preceded by leveling the playing field through getting rid of Apartheid laws and announcing major programmes for social upliftment. From the opposition side, particularly the PAC and ANC, a lot of internal energy is going to be consumed trying to get their respective organizational houses in order and developing workable non-violent strategies with each other and other organizations such as Inkatha.

I do not believe one can expect a great deal of firm commitments or effective compromises from the ANC. For example, until their major Congress in the middle of the year. This should sort out any ambiguities on strategies, leadership and lines of communication.

The relationship between All Party Conferences, Interim Government arrangements and structures like a Constituent Assembly will also have to be put squarely on the agenda and hopefully 1991 will see the end of posturing and radical outbidding in this regard. The hopeful signs are that the major players are bunkering down now and beginning to seriously engage one another. The enduring problem is still the problem of violence and maintaining acceptable stability as part of a climate for negotiations and the Government will have to deal far more fundamentally with this issue than it has up to now.