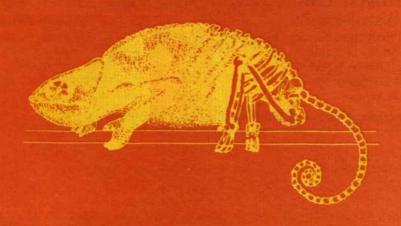
TRANS FORM ATION

critical perspectives on Southern Africa

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We ask contributors to submit two (2) typed copies, following the format (on such issues as references and notes) of articles in this issue of TRANSFORMATION. Whilst the journal will cater for work at any level of abstraction, or detail, a number of criteria will guide the editors in selection of material for inclusion. Articles should aim for academic rigour but also clarify the political implications of the issues discussed. We are concerned not to compete with other South African journals that may cover related ground but in different ways - this will govern our selection principles. All articles will be assessed anonymously by the referees. Contibutions should preferably not exceed the following lengths:

Analytical articles: 7 000 words

Debates and review articles: 3 000 words

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IS SOCIALISM ON THE AGENDA? A LETTER TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEFT

Philosopher RONALD ARONSON, following his second visit to South Africa, contrasts the atmosphere in 1987 with the one prevailing in 1990. The euphoria of moral certainty has been replaced by doubt concerning the future and the socialist project. This entire issue is devoted to reconsideration of socialism, locally and internationally in fact. Aronson argues the importance of a redefined notion of socialist democracy as the central task.

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Modernity, a central concept in modern social thought, has enthralled us only to deceive. Arguing that its pursuit represents a pitfall that will be of growing importance in the wake of the political transformation of the past year, JOHAN MULLER AND NICO CLOETE consider that the support role of past years for the liberation movement is no longer sufficient for intellectuals; the creation of fora for critical debate and democratic participation are now essential to a renewed project for general transformation.

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A recent major conference in New York saw intellectuals from many countries consider the crisis in socialism and debate its future. MIKE MORRIS was there and summarises and discusses some of the most salient contributions including detailed accounts of two SACP speakers, Joe Slovo and the late Mzala.

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ADAM HABIB takes the critique of Joe Slovo made by Jordan in Transformation 11 further. He sees, following Mandel, perestroika and glasnost as half-baked and reformist and unable to get the socialist project back on the rails.

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In a talk assessing the the history of the 'red capital of Africa', DAN O'MEARA concentrates on a processual history of the stages through which the Mozambican revolution passed, in so doing rejecting as superficial or cynical some of the dismissive analyses of Mozambique that have been made elsewhere on the Left in recent years. His contribution is paralleled by

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Briefly, JOHN SAUL also recapitulates the Mozambique story, focussing especially on the fateful political struggles within FRELIMO as he observed them.