Despite longstanding promises of a return to civilian rule, Acheampong and the SMC vigorously pushed their own proposals for "Union Government" (Unigov), a form of joint military-civilian rule under a constitution outlawing political parties. Then a March referendum designed to test popular sentiment on the issue ended up a near total fiasco: Numerous irregularities were reported in the ballot counting, and when the electoral commisioner protested to Acheampong he was threatened with arrest and subsequently fled the country.

Alarmed at growing unrest, members of the SMC forced Acheampong to step down on July 5 and replaced him with Akuffo. But the SMC's junta's new team has so far failed to present a decisive program to generate support, and has indicated that it plans little change in the controversial Unigov proposals.

One modification hinted at by Akuffo is the installing of an elected military-civilian government for four years while the country considers the restitution of party politics—a step that the new head of state recently said Ghana was not ready for.

The public reaction to such talk has been openly skeptical—an indication, according to some observers, that the military is totally discredited and must step down.

Such a move, of course, is unlikely, but Ghanaian political organizations are beginning to discuss what sorts of policies a civilian government should adopt if the army were to return to the barracks.

At a recent London symposium organized by the Ghana Students Congress, several leading opposition political figures argued that those most likely to inherit the reins of power are members of an elite no less corrupt, self-interested and incompetent than the SMC.

A particular stir was caused by Johnny Hansen of the People's Movement for Freedom and Justice—a group formed to campaign against Unigov. Hansen maintained that Ghana's economic evolution from Nkrumah's "state capitalism" to the more conventional capitalism of the SMC had reduced the size of the group that is accumulating wealth.

Neither a new constitution nor a change in leadership could reverse this trend, he said, without land reform, political education, public works programs and a redistribution of wealth.

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STAFF: Charles Ebel, Tami Hultman, Reed Kramer, Ruth Minter, William Minter, Nzinga Z. Njeri, Jinni M. Stroman, John W. Stroman.
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SOUTH AFRICA

SQUATTER CAMP AN EXPLOSIVE ISSUE

[AN] A prominent but small group within South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) are quietly campaigning to change a policy they fear could result in major international embarrassment for the government.

"The political time-bomb"—as one newspaper has described it—is demolition of a shantytown outside Cape Town called Crossroads, which is inhabited by an estimated 20,000 persons. Most of its residents, wives and children of Cape Town's male work force, do not qualify under South African law for residence anywhere near the city.

By the end of this year, the government says, they will have to get out. Or, as happened last December to three other camps near Cape Town, bulldozers will be sent in to knock the buildings down.

The Johannesburg *Sunday Times* has suggested that such a scene—exploding "in full color on television screens all over the world"—could spark an outcry against South Africa similar to the one which followed the death of black leader Steve Biko last September.

Nationalist politicians, who reportedly share this fear and oppose the demolition include Foreign Minister Roelof Botha and several other cabinet officers and members of parliament.

Within the past few weeks, however, several government officials have repeated the pledge to eradicate Crossroads. One of the most powerful is Defense Minister P.W. Botha, who heads the Cape Province National Party. In his opening address at the provincial congress, he said the Crossroads squatters must leave because of the terrible conditions in the camp.

Community Development Secretary Louis Fouche has called Crossroads "an evil to be eradicated." "We cannot, as human beings, be satisfied that our fellow men live under such appalling conditions," he has said.

Speaking in defense of the squatters to the worldwide gathering of Bishops at the Church of England's Lambeth Conference, Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said the inhabitants will suffer worse conditions if the government carries through with its plan.

"It would mean that the men would have to go back to single-sex hostels in Cape Town," he said, "and with the personal disruption to their lives would inevitably become the victims of prostitution and drunkenness and all the other ills that follow migratory labor. The wives and children would be repatriated to the Transkei, where there is little money. They would be underfed and would become the victims of disease and despair."

The bishops called upon South African authorities to postpone demolition until alternative family housing can be found.

Journalists who have visited Crossroads report that in spite of the crude houses the community is more stable and crime-free than most others in the Cape Town area. In a recent survey, two urban specialists from the University of Cape Town suggested that the government should "preserve and build on something that has proved highly successful."

But that decision would involve a significant alteration in the government's population scheme. Such liberalization of NP policies is what the *verligte* ("enlightened") politicians are pushing.

While the NP leadership under Prime Minister John Vorster has agreed to certain reforms and modifications, the verligtes have been rebuffed on many issues. One official, Deputy Interior Minister Louis Grange, apparently addressing what are now known as ultra-verligtes, warned, "Get out of the party and fight us from outside."

Analyzing the internal rumblings, the liberal *Financial Mail* concludes: "There is no chance of significant changes to apartheid being accepted while the power struggle continues. . . . The introduction of any new verligte concepts or phrases will merely be designed to bluff and impress the blacks, liberal critics—and international opinion."

But many verligtes remain convinced that if they do not succeed in modifying policies, South Africa will face greater and greater pressures for even more radical change.