

# Russian group *Citizen* *24/11* *89* <sup>*p.2*</sup> will visit SA

MOSCOW. — The Soviet Union is sending its first citizen delegation to South Africa, a country with which it has no diplomatic ties, Tass announced yesterday.

It was unclear whether

the visit presages an improvement in relations between South Africa and the Soviet Union, but it is undeniably a novelty.

For years, the Soviet Union refused public dealings with South Africa because of that country's apartheid policies.

South Africa has portrayed itself as a bulwark of Western and Christian values against the advance of Communism.

Tass said the delegation from the officially sanctioned Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee would include two professors from Moscow University's Institute of Asian and African Countries, Irina Filatova and Appolon Davidson.

The group was invited to visit South Africa from November 30 to December 12 by the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa, Tass said.

"The Soviet experts will meet representatives of South Africa's democratic movement and broad public, brief them on restructuring processes in the Soviet Union and the Soviet public's position on Southern African problems," Tass said. — Sapa-AP.