

Call for honesty and forgiveness

A former Queenstonian, Mr Samuel Pono, (below) who is working for the South African Moral and Spiritual Armament Group, visited The Rep's. offices on Monday. He brought with him a book written by one of his colleagues, Agnes Leakey Hofmeyr, entitled "Beyond Violence."

Mr Pono, who was born in Queenstown in 1941, gave his views on the violence in Natal and on the Reef.

Mr Pono said: "South Africa is stepping fearfully, hopefully into a new era after years of political dead-end and frustration. Negotiations and bargaining are going on and will for a long time ahead. But politicians can only go as far as the people will allow and this will be determined by the inner attitudes of us all. Even the most generous of Whites and Blacks have a backlog of attitudes, judgements, prejudices and hurts that need to be washed away in a tide of honesty and forgiveness."

He said that as a devoted Christian he does not believe in violence and will always try to solve conflicts via peaceful means.

When asked about his political affiliation he said he is not a card-



carrying member of any political formation, but is wholeheartedly striving for a non-racial dispensation in which all the inhabitants of South Africa will have an equal share.

Mr Pono had high praise for clergymen like Desmond Tutu, Alan Boesak, Beyers Naude and Frank Chikane who, he said, have done a lot to minimise the violence. He said he

respects them all for their unwavering stand against injustices in this country.

He added that South Africans will have to arm themselves morally and spiritually in order to build a better South Africa.

Mr Pono, who received his primary and secondary school education at the Baptist Lower Primary School and Nkwanca Secondary School respectively, travelled with the International Moral and Spiritual Armament Group abroad for three and a half years. He visited Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, Brazil, Luxemburg, France, Scandinavian countries, the United States of America and Canada, under the leadership of Dr Frank Buchman, who is funding this project.

Mr Pono is now based in Pretoria and his wife, Virginia, is from Zimbabwe.