



## bay area free south africa movement

5424 EAST 14TH STREET • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94605

labor committee

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COORDINATORS

JOHN GEORGE  
CHAIRPERSON

West Coast meeting to stop South African trade  
August 17, 1985 9 am to 7 pm  
ILWU Local #10 Hall, 400 North Point, San Francisco, California

Dear friends,

On November 23, 1984, San Francisco Bay Area longshoremen took the historic step of refusing to unload South African cargo from the Dutch ship "Nedlloyd Kimberley." For eleven days these members of ILWU Local #10 boycotted the cargo, and brought to life a new level of struggle against the racist apartheid regime of South Africa. Since then S.F. Bay Area Port Commissions have declared that doing business with South Africa is "morally repugnant." On May 23rd, 1985, picketlines protested the movement of South African cargo in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. On the same day 79 trade unionists and ministers were arrested at the offices of South African Airways in San Francisco.

The movement against apartheid is growing everywhere in our country. Especially here on the West Coast, demonstrations and arrests have taken place in Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle in the struggle to shut down South African consulates. The national movement for divestment is growing.

In this situation, the question of U.S. trade with South Africa has become more and more important. The United States is South Africa's number one trading partner. Without markets in the U.S. for its industrial products, and without the ability to import needed goods, the apartheid regime will suffer economic disaster. South Africa exports a large variety of goods to the U.S., including gold, steel, strategic metals, coal, diamonds, auto glass, fruit juice, agricultural products and wine.

While the white South African minority enjoys one of the world's highest living standards, Black South African workers, the vast majority, are paid only a few dollars a day. Black South African workers are forced to live without their families, must carry passbooks, have permission to work, and cannot vote. The Black trade union movement is growing rapidly, but their organizing drives and strikes meet repression and death at government hands.

Black South African workers make tremendous profits for U.S. and South African corporations, who exploit their slave-labor conditions. Many of the products of these corporations are brought to the U.S. and sold. But while profitable for corporations, the trade in these products of oppression is disaster for the people of the U.S. Thousands of tons of South African steel are imported by steel companies, who shut down mills here and lay off thousands of workers. Auto glass, auto parts and fruit juice are imported while glass plants, foundries and canneries here close. The lines of unemployed and homeless people in our communities get longer.

Black workers and unions in South Africa need the support of unions and the communities of working people here. Stopping trade

with South Africa helps their freedom struggle, and the fight for jobs and justice in the U.S. as well.

To stop South African trade, West Coast-wide cooperation is necessary and possible. We would therefore like to call a meeting on a coastwide scale in order to discuss how to put an end to U.S. trade with South Africa. This meeting will be held in San Francisco at the union hall of the ILWU Longshore Union Local #10 at 400 North Point on Saturday, August 17, 1985, from 9 am to 7 pm.

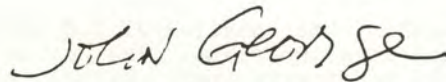
We invite the Free South Africa Movements in each West Coast port city to send representatives. We especially invite port workers and unions who are forced to handle this cargo, or whose members are affected by the trade, to send representatives. We also invite representatives of unions, churches or community organizations who are interested in participating actively in the movement to put a halt to the trade.

This meeting will discuss a number of subjects: How much South African cargo is coming through each West Coast port, and what particular products are being brought in? What kinds of grassroots and rank-and-file activities can be organized which focus on the cargo? What pressure can be put on local Port Commissions to stop the flow of cargo through their ports? What kinds of legislation can be proposed to halt the cargo, and impose other economic sanctions? Most important, how can all this activity be coordinated on a coastwide scale in order to maximize its effectiveness?

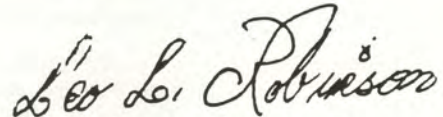
We invite you to send a representative, and your suggestions for how this discussion should be organized. Please send your reply, comments and questions to the Labor Committee of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, c/o David Bacon, Molders Union Local #164, 4425 E. 14th St., Oakland, Ca. 94601, or phone (415) 534-1924 or 444-1615.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in San Francisco.

In solidarity,



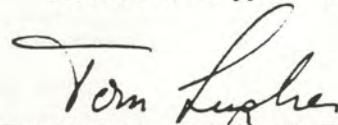
John George, Chairperson  
Bay Area Free South Africa  
Movement  
Alameda County Supervisor



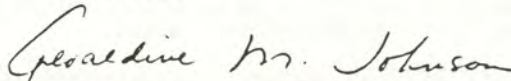
Leo Robinson, Chairperson  
ILWU Local #10 South Africa  
Liberation Support Committee



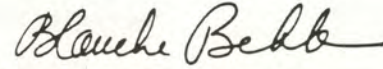
David Reed, Co-Chairperson  
San Francisco Anti-Apartheid  
Committee



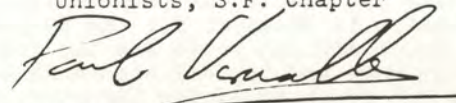
Tom Luper, Secretary-Treasurer  
International Longshoremen and  
Warehousemen Union Local #10



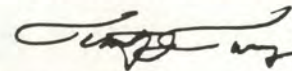
Geraldine Johnson, Chairperson  
Coalition of Black Trade  
Unionists, S.F. Chapter



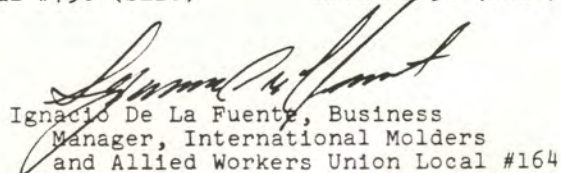
Blanche Bebb, Secretary  
SEIU Local #250 Southern Africa  
Solidarity Committee



Paul Varacalli, Executive  
Director, United Public  
Employees Local #790 (SEIU)



Timothy Twomey, Secretary-Treasurer  
Hospital Workers Union  
Local #250 (SEIU)



Ignacio De La Fuente, Business  
Manager, International Molders  
and Allied Workers Union Local #164