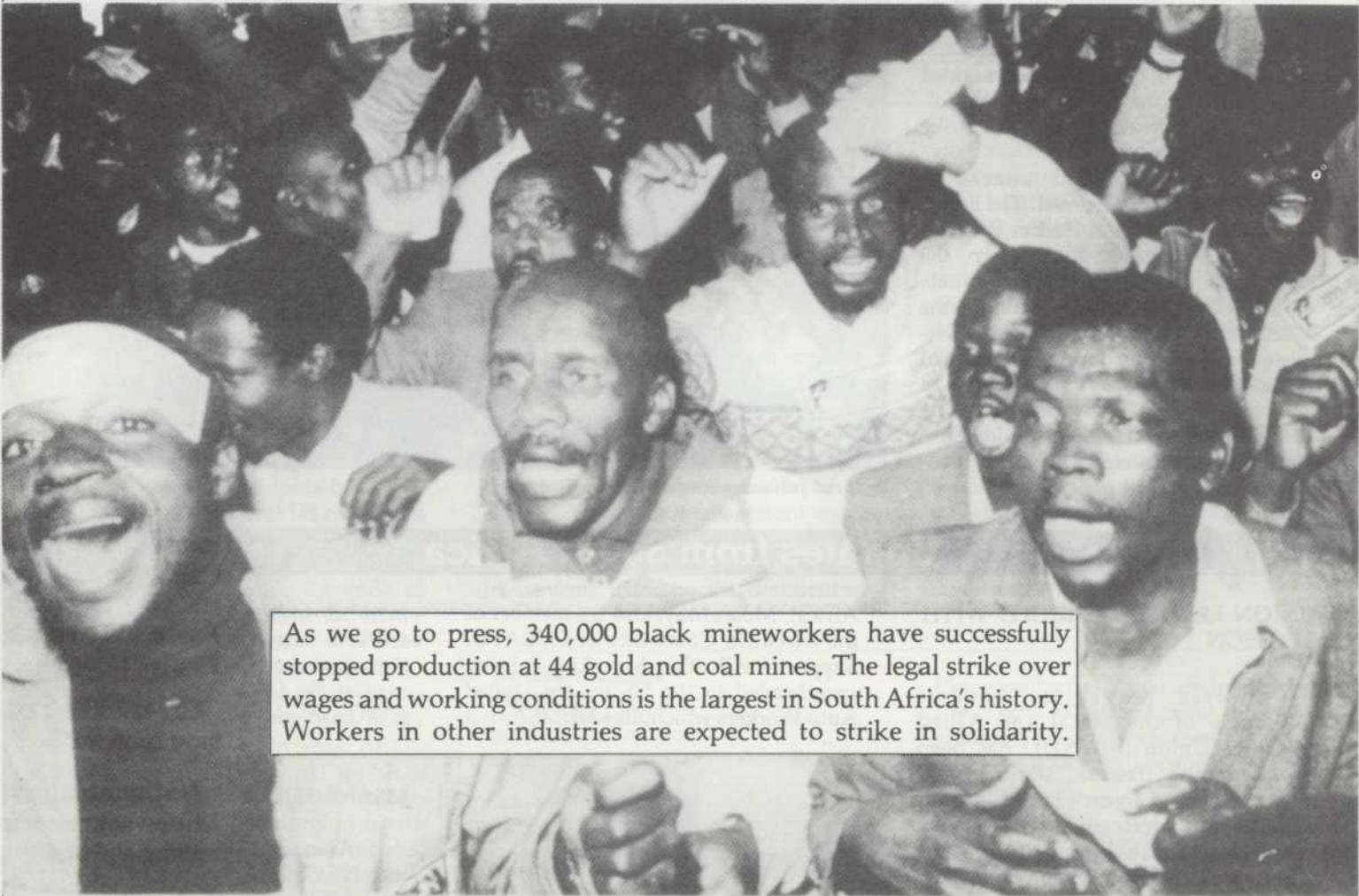


Labor Against Apartheid

Summer 1987, Vol. 4, No. 2



COSATU



As we go to press, 340,000 black mineworkers have successfully stopped production at 44 gold and coal mines. The legal strike over wages and working conditions is the largest in South Africa's history. Workers in other industries are expected to strike in solidarity.

State of Emergency Update

As the State of Emergency enters its second year and as press censorship tightens, news from South Africa no longer captures many headlines. But events continue to show the strength of the anti-apartheid movement, at home and abroad. And, increasingly, union action is at the center of the struggle.

On April 25, over 100,000 people braved the chilling rains in Washington

D.C. to join the mobilization for Justice and Peace in Southern Africa and Central America. Union members accounted for at least one-third of the march, which was endorsed by 21 presidents of national and international unions.

This June, the South African labor movement showed renewed independence and fortitude when 16,000 trans-

port workers won a three-month strike against the state-run railway system. The victory was gained in the face of full emergency powers by the government.

When the settlement was announced, thousands of black workers streamed into downtown Johannesburg to celebrate, virtually taking over the central city. Further news of the strike inside.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is the country's leading labor federation, with over 750,000 members and a record of militant opposition to the apartheid system. It was no coincidence that COSATU House, the federations headquarters in Johannesburg, was bombed on May 8, possibly beyond repair.

The bombing directly followed a successful two-day stayaway call by the unions and the United Democratic Front to protest the whites-only elections held on May 6-7. According to first-hand reports, the work stoppage was observed by 80-90% of workers in major industrial areas. COSATU House had been raided by police twice the previous month, following the outbreak of a national strike by 16,000 railway workers.

In the same period, attacks on COSATU affiliates mounted. The list includes the Railway and Harbor Workers (SARHWU) offices in Kroonsdorp, the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers (CCAWUSA) offices in Germiston, the Metal and Allied (MAWU) offices in Germiston and Krugersdorp, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) offices in Witbank, and the South Africa Workers Union (SAWU) offices in East London. Several workers were killed during confrontations with the police.

Hands off COSATU



Scab at Johannesburg's Park Station.

Afrapix/Weekly Mail

Updates from South Africa

UNION LEADER CHARGED WITH TREASON

Moses Mayekiso, general secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU), has been charged with treason, sedition and subversion after a year's imprisonment. The charges, which could bring a death sentence, were brought against Mayekiso and four other community activists in the Alexandra township on the grounds that they formed "organs of people's power" to "overthrow, endanger, or usurp the authority of the state."

In fact, Mayekiso has been a leader in forming local labor-community alliances in Alexandra, which established participatory street, block and area committees. Other acts cited in the charges include campaigning against the security forces, operating people's courts, launching a rent boycott, and changing street names.

In addition to heading MAWU (which has recently merged with several other unions to form NUMSA, the National Union of Metal Workers of South

Africa), Moses Mayekiso is a member of the Executive Committee of COSATU. Support for Brother Mayekiso is being spearheaded in the US by the United Auto Workers which, like NUMSA, is a

member of the International Metalworkers Federation. For information on the campaign for Mayekiso's release, contact the UAW at Solidarity House, 8000 East Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48214.

Learn and Teach



Moses Mayekiso

MSANE STILL HELD

Amon Msane, a leader in the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union (CCAWUSA), remains in detention without trial. As a shop steward at the 3M plant near Johannesburg, Msane led a one-day walkout last year protesting the shutdown of a 3M plant in Freehold, New Jersey. Subsequently, Msane toured the US twice, speaking on behalf of international shop floor solidarity. He was arrested on his last return from the US, in August 1986.

Support for Msane's release is being organized in New York by the Labor Institute, 853 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. Letters urging 3M to intervene in South Africa to secure Msane's release can be sent directly to: Allen Jacobson, Chairman, 3M Company General Offices, St. Paul, MN 55144.

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Afrapix/Impact Visuals

Freedom Train

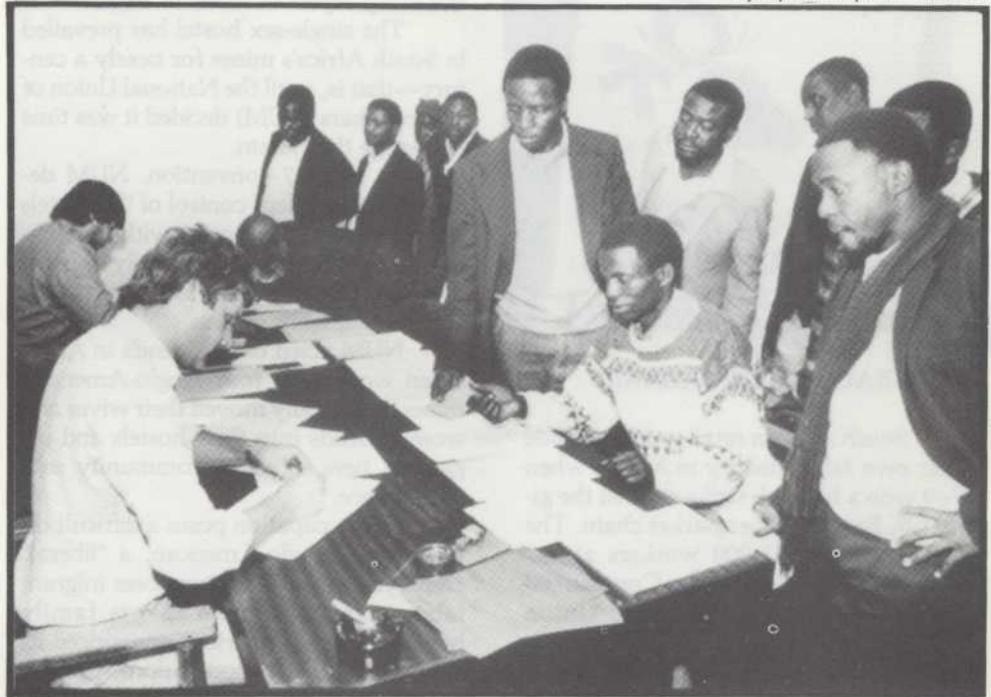
The largest public sector strike in South African labor history ended victoriously in June for 16,000 black railway workers, led by the South African Railways and Harbour Workers Union (SARWHU) against the South African Transport Services (SATS).

The strike was touched off in April by a walkout over the unfair dismissal of a black worker at a Johannesburg depot. It quickly spread through the workers' hostels where large numbers of migrant black railway workers live. Strikers' demands included the end of racist treatment by white supervisors, a just grievance procedure, and improved hostel conditions. SATS responded by firing all 16,000 strikers, hiring white scabs, and setting up a full-scale confrontation.

The government repeatedly used violence against the strikers, leaving 11 dead, the negotiating committee under arrest, over 400 activists detained, and hundreds more evicted from hostels and "deported" to homelands. SARWHU headquarters was demolished by a bomb, as was COSATU House after the union's parent federation stepped in for arrested SARWHU officers.

But unlike public employee actions in past years, this strike could count on the full backing of COSATU affiliates—750,000 members strong—as well as the United Democratic Front and numerous local community, youth and student organizations.

On June 5, when the reinstatements were announced, thousands of black workers poured into the streets of downtown Johannesburg to celebrate their triumph over "the arrogance of apartheid," as a COSATU worker put it. The jubilant



Railway workers and management settle South Africa's longest public service strike.

demonstration also made clear that organized labor is an irrepressible force in South Africa, the State of Emergency notwithstanding.

Strikers also organized black commuters to take free rides on operating trains where no ticket collectors were working. Reports of first-class coaches packed with black passengers singing freedom songs underscored the broad solidarity which carried the strikers through three months. In the end, SATS lost over \$50 million and could not operate the system.

The settlement reinstated the 16,000 workers with full benefits, including those held in detention or evicted to the homelands. It also gave black workers the right to qualify for permanent status after two years of service, a right previously held only by white workers. With these concessions, the union successfully challenged two keystones of the apartheid labor system: the outlawing of public employees' strikes and union activity, and the migrant labor status imposed on black workers.

POSTAL WORKERS WIN

Adding fuel to the fire in the public sector, post office workers went on strike in April to protest bad race relations between black and white staff, management and senior officials, union bashing and poor working conditions. Like the railroad strike, the post office strike quickly spread to other depots as the number of workers involved grew from 400 to 8,000.

After striking for five weeks, an agreement was reached which provides for the reinstatement of workers dismissed for strike activity, full union representation by the Post Office and Telecommunications Workers Association (POTWA) at all disciplinary hearings, and partial payment of wages due during the strike. In addition, segregated canteen and toilet facilities have been abolished.

Public sector workers, unlike private sector employees, are not covered by South African labor laws because their services are regarded as essential. Public sector employees, however, are demanding—and winning—the right to the same legal protection.



CONTRACT AT OK BAZAARS

South African retail workers made their own labor history in March when they won a 10-week strike against the giant OK Bazaars supermarket chain. The strike involved 11,000 workers at 137 outlets and was led by the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union (CCAWUSA), a COSATU affiliate. It was the longest strike in the retail trade and the largest in the private sector, outside of mining.

The settlement included an across-the-board raise of 100 rand, an increase in the minimum wage to 400 rand, and a 12% staff discount. The pay hikes apply to workers in the homelands and women on maternity leave, groups previously excluded from these benefits. Over two-thirds of the 510 workers dismissed during the strike were reinstated and the others will get disciplinary hearings.

The OK Bazaars strikers withstood severe repression by the government, including the outlawing of a consumer boycott. Despite the boycott ban and OK's price-cutting campaigns over the Christmas holidays, an estimated 60% of black customers stayed away from OK stores.

The victory was a boost to unionization across the retail sector, strengthening the steward system and ties between local workplaces where other workers refused to handle OK Bazaars goods. Inter-union cooperation was strong throughout the strike, which brought contributions from both COSATU and NACTU unions National Council of Trade Unions, previously known as CUSA-AZACTU.)

MINERS TAKE OVER HOSTELS

One of the most oppressive and degrading features of the apartheid labor system is that it reduces black workers to migrant status in their own land. Millions of workers must leave their families in the designated "homelands" and live at their worksites in single-sex barracks, or hostels, for the 11-month term of their annual labor contract. In addition to breaking up families, hostel arrangements are designed to perpetuate tribal differences and to police every aspect of workers' lives.

The single-sex hostel has prevailed in South Africa's mines for nearly a century—that is, until the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) decided it was time to change the system.

At its 1987 convention, NUM declared that workers' control of the hostels was an immediate priority, with the long-term goals of establishing family housing in place of hostel camps and dismantling the migrant labor system.

NUM acted on its agenda in April, when workers at four Anglo-American mines unilaterally moved their wives and womenfriends into their hostels and organized new forms of community self-governance.

The occupation poses a difficult dilemma for Anglo-American, a "liberal" employer that claims it opposes migrant labor compounds and favors family housing. Anglo-American announced its disapproval of the occupations, but has not taken measures to dislodge its surpris-

ing new occupants.

At other hostel sites, miners are setting up defense committees to protect themselves from anti-union vigilante action, to improve living conditions, and to push for detribalization of living quarters.

METAL UNIONS MERGE

A new labor giant has been born in South Africa, merging eight affiliates of COSATU into one industrial union representing metal and auto workers. Named the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), the new formation has 130,000 members, second only to the National Union of Mineworkers with more than 260,000 members.

The Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU), one of COSATU's strongest founding unions, has taken the lead in the successful merger into NUMSA. The new union is pledged to the principles of non-racialism, internal democracy and workers' control. It will continue prior affiliations with COSATU and the International Metalworkers' Federation.

Among NUMSA's first acts was the adoption of the Freedom Charter as its political program. The Charter was drawn up by the African National Congress in 1955 as a platform for a democratic South Africa. Like the ANC, the Charter is banned. It was adopted earlier this year by the National Union of Mineworkers, which also elected Nelson Mandela as its honorary president.

COSATU LAUNCHES LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

This spring, South Africa's leading labor federation, COSATU, launched a nationwide campaign to achieve a "living wage." The campaign is directed against the subsistence wages prevailing South African industry, where black workers' wages (corrected for inflation) have fallen steadily since 1982. COSATU called on affiliates in each sector to set specific goals for an appropriate minimum wage.

The living wage concept also includes demands for:

- a 40-hour week without loss of pay;
- job security;
- paid holidays for May Day, Soweto Day (June 16), and Sharpeville Day (March 21);
- six months paid maternity leave;
- decent housing near worksites and an end to the hostel system;
- the right to decent education and job training;
- no taxation without representation.



The campaign already scored one victory in the retail trade when the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union won across-the-board increases against OK Bazaars (see page 3 above). The decisive tests will come over the summer and fall as national wage standards are bargained in the metal and mining industries, where strong unions face powerful employers.

US Divestment News

Weekly Mail

CITIBANK PULLS OUT

When anti-apartheid demonstrators showed up outside Citicorp's New York headquarters on Soweto Day, June 16, they found cause to celebrate instead of protest. That morning, the US banking giant announced that it would be withdrawing its financial operations from South Africa.

The triumphant rally and concert culminated a year-long campaign calling on Citicorp to divest, led by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and widely supported by labor and religious groups. Citicorp has been the largest US lender to the apartheid economy and was the last American bank to maintain a subsidiary in South Africa.

SULLIVAN'S ABOUT-FACE

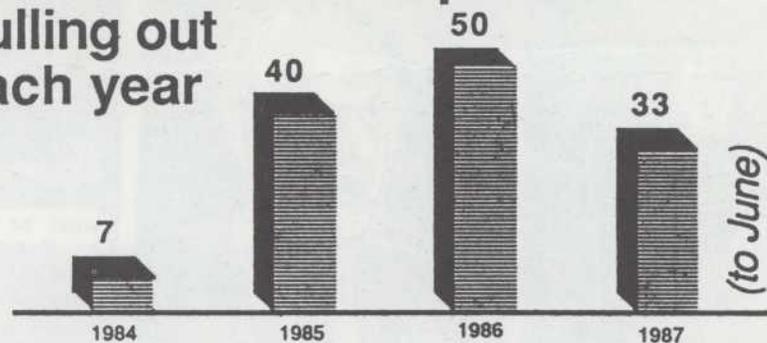
For many years, Rev. Leon Sullivan advocated corporate compromise with apartheid. The Philadelphia-based religious leader believed that US companies operating in South Africa could reform apartheid's labor practices by following the "Sullivan Principles," a code of employment standards that called for the elimination of blatant forms of job discrimination and workplace segregation.

Many corporations cited observance of the Sullivan Principles to justify their continued presence in South Africa. Ronald Reagan also endorsed the code as an example of his "constructive engagement" policy. Black unions in South Africa opposed the Sullivan Principles, and parallel European codes of conduct, as cosmetic changes used more to mask racism and exploitation than to challenge apartheid's labor system.

Well, after weighing the negligible impact of his principles on apartheid, Rev. Sullivan has changed his position. He now agrees with anti-apartheid activists who have long argued that the only effective pressure against the apartheid system is to cut off its economic lifelines.

In his statement issued June 3, Rev. Sullivan called for a total economic boycott of South Africa: "In spite of our efforts, the main pillars of apartheid remain and blacks are still denied basic civil rights. . . . The time has come for American corporations and the U.S. to take a definitive stand against the evils of apartheid."

Number of US companies pulling out each year



DIVESTMENT GUIDELINES

When is divestment from South Africa a responsible act and when is it a smokescreen? Five leading US anti-apartheid organizations have drawn up guidelines for divestment which tell the difference between real and sham corporate withdrawals. They conclude that a corporation is still doing business with South Africa if it, its parent or subsidiaries:

1. have direct investments in South Africa or Namibia or have entered into franchise, licensing or management agreements with entities in those countries;
2. have not prohibited new or renewed investments, loans, credits, or related ser-

vices and financial agreements;

3. have more than 5% of their common stock beneficially owned or controlled by a South African entity.

Under the guidelines, companies such as General Motors or IBM, which retain licensing agreements with South African managers, are not legitimately divested.

Moreover, responsible divestment must also include consideration of the workforce a company leaves behind. In fact, GM broke a union strike when black workers protested the company pull-out without guaranteeing pension and severance benefits for its employees. GM still refuses to negotiate the terms of divestment.

NY Labor Committee Against Apartheid
c/o CWA Local 1180
225 Broadway, NYC 10007

Co-Chairs:

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DC 37, AFSCME

Georgianna Johnson, President,
District 1199

Steering Committee:

Lou Albano, President, Local 325,
DC 37, AFSCME

Ed Allen, Associate Director,
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John Flynn, Director,
Region 9A, United Auto Workers

Jim Bell, President, New York
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Jim Butler, President, Local 420,
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Barry Feinstein, President, Local 237,
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United Food & Commercial Workers

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John Hudson, Manager,
Headwear Joint Board, ACTWU

Dan Kane, President, Local 111,
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Barry Liebowitz, President,
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William Lucy, President,
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

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Committee of Interns & Residents

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Sam Meyers, President, Local 259,
United Auto Workers

Henry Nicholas, President,
Nat'l Union of Hospital & Health
Care Employees

William Nuchow, Secretary-Treasurer,
Local 840, Int'l Brotherhood of
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Jan Pierce, Vice-President for
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Bettye Roberts, President,
District Council 1707, AFSCME

Cleveland Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer,
District 65, United Auto Workers

Edgar Romney, Manager, Local 23-25,
Int'l Ladies Garment Workers Union

Charles Sallee, Executive Vice-President,
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Mike Shay, Manager, Central &
South Jersey Joint Board, ACTWU

Jack Scheinkman, Secretary-Treasurer,
ACTWU

Cecil Toppin, Manager, Service &
Allied Industries Joint Board, ACTWU

Ida Torres, Vice-President, Local 3,
Stoweworkers Union, RSDWU

Coordinators: Bill Henning and Sean MacDonald

Please contact us if you are interested in subscribing to **Labor Against Apartheid**, obtaining bulk orders for your union, or receiving notices of upcoming events or meetings.

A REFORM BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL...

WITH THE ELECTIONS, THE OUTSIDE WORLD MUST NOW HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE THAT THEY CANNOT DICTATE TO SOUTH AFRICA...



SOUTH AFRICA WANTS TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND THEY BELIEVE IN MODERATE AND WELL-BALANCED REFORM IN MANY DIRECTIONS...



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE CHARGES MADE BY YOUR CRITICS REGARDING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, 30,000 DETENTIONS, PRESS CENSORSHIP, THE CREATION OF MORE PHONY HOMELANDS, AND CONTINUED FORCED REMOVALS OF BLACK COMMUNITIES?

YEAH. LIKE I SAID - REFORMS.



SHAKE '87

Shell Boycott Builds

The international boycott against Shell Oil, spearheaded by labor movements in 12 Western countries, has gained momentum with a new stockholders' campaign. The goal is to force Royal Dutch/Shell to convene a special meeting where the company's refusal to divest can be challenged. Under corporate by-laws, such a special meeting can be called by petitioners holding 10% or more of Shell stock (roughly 27 million shares).

To date, the petition has received the support of stockholders with more than 12 million US shares, including public employee pension funds, religious institutions, and the Wells Fargo and Mellon banks. Shell Boycott activities in coming months will urge other Shell stockholders to join the effort. Target companies which hold Shell stock are located across the country.

In New York, stockholders who have not yet pledged their support include Morgan Guaranty, Bankers Trust, Irving Trust, and Merrill Lynch Asset Management. In Europe, the stockholders' campaign prompted protests at annual meetings of Royal Dutch Petroleum in the Netherlands and of Shell Trading and Transport in London. In Denmark, several cities and municipal bus lines stopped purchasing Shell fuel. Norway's capital city, Oslo, will not renew its Shell contract if the company does not withdraw from South Africa by August 1. In the Netherlands, 25 cities endorsed the boycott.

"A global campaign to force the Royal Dutch/Shell Group to withdraw from South Africa is beginning to draw blood," commented *Business International*. In response, Shell's South Africa Chairman John Wilson has been sharply criticizing the apartheid government and condemned the recent attacks on the union headquarters of COSATU. Nevertheless, Shell remains the major fuel supplier to South Africa and the only com-

pany openly defying the UN oil embargo of South Africa.

For information about boycott activities in the New York Area, contact LCAA coordinator Sean McDonald or Vicki Williams at (212) 242-0700. The National Boycott Shell Campaign can be reached c/o United Mine Workers, 900 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, phone: (202) 842-7350.

C. Smith/Impact Visuals



United Mineworkers picket the April board meeting of Morgan Guaranty Trust.