

Committee for
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS

POST OFFICE BOX 31397
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94131

July 31, 1985

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We enclose a call to a meeting to stop trade with South Africa, to be held on Saturday, August 17, at 9 am at Longshore Hall, 400 North Point Street, San Francisco (Fisherman's Wharf).

As you know we have been deeply involved in supporting the longshoremen who boycotted S.A. cargo, and in trying to find ways for workers in other industries to exert pressure on the apartheid regime, which has been strongly condemned by the labor movement of the U.S.

We fully support this meeting though we do not happen to be its sponsor. That honor belongs to the Labor Committee of BAFSAM, which has maintained a picketline in support of the longshoremen, at the offices of the Pacific Maritime Association for a solid eight months.

Because of the serious developments in South Africa the meeting has been called on short notice. If your meetings are taking place during this period, or if your officers have authority to do so, it is suggested that you send official delegates. If not, send observers if you can, to guarantee a report back. If not possible to do either of these then please encourage as many of your members as possible to attend.

In our last letter we enclosed four resolutions which, if adopted, were to be sent to your international union. We enclose another, on the subject of South Korea. Certainly several hundred thousand U.S. workers, and perhaps over a million, have permanently lost their jobs because the Korean government has viciously attacked and practically completely destroyed independent unions. It was electronic workers, and clothing workers, in the main who lost their U.S. jobs: Now it is steel workers, auto workers and shipbuilding workers, who are being laid off because of the increased union busting in Korea.

Our next meeting will be held in a new location. It will be on Wednesday, August 21 at 7 pm at District 190 of the Machinists, The address is 7717 Oakport Street, Oakland.

To get there take Nimitz Freeway. Go off 66th Street. Oakport is the frontage road on the other side of the freeway from the Oakland Coliseum. From 66th you take Oakport toward San Jose. There is plenty of parking behind the union hall.

Please turn the page

Again we urge that, if you have not already done so, your local, or district organization, or labor council, or building trades council, or retired group, should affiliate. Dues is \$10 a month. Where there are financial problems the Committee has decided to make the necessary adjustments, as we do not wish to turn away any labor organization for lack of money.

If you do not affiliate then we suggest that you subscribe to our NEWS AND ACTION BULLETIN for \$10 a year. We know, positively, that there is no place else and no publication where you can read of the latest developments in international labor solidarity, or obtain the analysis, or find the labor movement's program of action, except in this Bulletin.

In this letter there was no space for it, but in the next we will furnish a list of our 53 affiliates, report the contents of the 6 copies (then it will be 7) which have been published, and of the subjects to be covered, in the Bulletin.

Upon request we will furnish a speaker for your membership meeting, or executive either on CISTUR (abbreviation of our name) or any aspect of international labor solidarity.

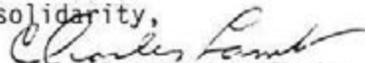
Would you like to affiliate? _____

Would you like to subscribe to the Bulletin? _____

Would you like a speaker? If so furnish us a telephone number and we will take it from there _____

Would you like to know more about CISTUR - why we came into existence - what we have done - what we plan to do? _____

in solidarity,


Charles Lamb - Chair

Committee for International
Support of Trade Union Rights
PO Box 31397, San Francisco, Ca 94131

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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?

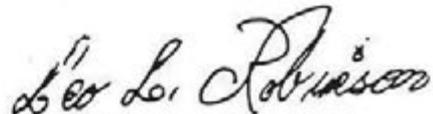
We invite you to send a representative, and your suggestions for how this discussion should be organized. Please send your reply, comments and questions to the Labor Committee of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, c/o David Bacon, Molders Union Local #164, 4425 E. 14th St., Oakland, Ca. 94601,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

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

In solidarity,



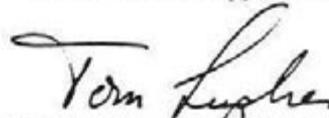
John George, Chairperson
Bay Area Free South Africa
Movement
Alameda County Supervisor



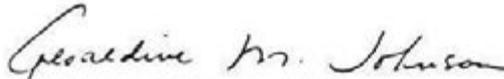
Leo Robinson, Chairperson
ILWU Local #10 South Africa
Liberation Support Committee



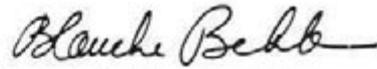
David Reed, Co-Chairperson
San Francisco Anti-Apartheid
Committee



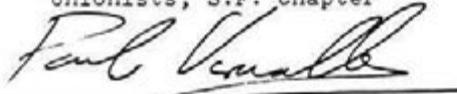
Tom Luper, Secretary-Treasurer
International Longshoremen and
Warehousemen Union Local #10



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



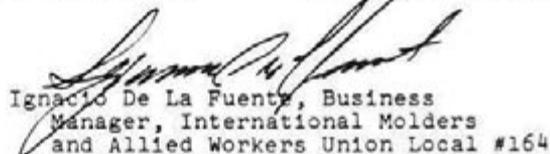
Blanche Bebb, Secretary
SEIU Local #250 Southern Africa
Solidarity Committee



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

RESOLUTION IN DEFENSE OF SOUTH KOREAN WORKERS

- Whereas, an increasing number of United States trade unionists are losing their jobs due to the flight of American capital to countries where the basic rights of labor are flagrantly violated; and
- Whereas, South Korea is one such country, where trade union members and workers attempting to organize unions face severe legal restrictions of internationally recognized trade union activities, and increasingly violent attacks from the government and company goons; and
- Whereas, jobs in the United States have been further threatened because South Korea's trade surplus with the United States has grown dramatically since ex-General Chun Doo Hwan took over the government in a May 1980 coup and soon thereafter rewrote the country's labor laws; and
- Whereas, United States military assistance, and the presence of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea contribute a crucial measure of support for the anti-labor regime of Gen. Chun; and
- Whereas, three union leaders of the Daewoo Apparels Co. were arrested on June 24, 1985 for leading a strike for a pay raise after negotiations with management reached a standstill, leading to sympathy strikes in a number of neighboring factories within the Kuro Industrial complex in Seoul, and on June 28, about 300 anti-union company goons attacked 250 women workers sitting in at the plant site with pipes and planks; and
- Whereas, eight leaders of the Daewoo Motor Company workers' union, who work for this joint venture with General Motors, have been arrested for organizing a courageous, nine-day occupation of the company's auto plant near Inchon, which resulted in a respectable 16.3% wage increase for the plants 3000 workers; and
- Whereas, the International Metalworkers Federation, at its June 1985 convention in Japan, adopted a resolution calling for the release of the 8 Daewoo Motor Co. union leaders arrested after their successful April 1985 labor action; and
- Whereas, the 1983 Convention of this Federation adopted the Trade Union Freedom and Human Rights resolution, reaffirming the AFL-CIO "position that United States military assistance shall be withheld from any country that denies the right of workers to organize and control their own unions;" therefore be it
- Resolved: That the AFL-CIO demands that the South Korean government immediately release the Daewoo Motor Company union 8, and all officials and members of the Daewoo Apparel Co. arrested due to the union's justifiable action against the company, as well as all other South Korean trade unionists imprisoned for legitimate trade union activities; and be it further

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO will use all methods at its disposal to encourage the South Korean government to reform the labor laws of that country to allow workers to freely organize and control their own unions, and to immediately cease from using violent force to repress such trade union rights; and be it further

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO will lobby Congress for an end to military assistance to South Korea because the democratic rights of workers to form and control their own unions is not respected; and be it further

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO will continue its efforts to have South Korea excluded from the tariff-free privileges of the Generalized System of Preferences, because of non-compliance with basic international standards for protecting the rights of workers; and be it further

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO and its affiliate unions and Internationals will seriously consider acts of solidarity such as selective product boycotts if called on to do so by trade unions in South Korea to support a particular labor struggle in that country.

This resolution adopted by :

NAME

ADDRESS

It is suggested that copies be sent to international unions, AFL-CIO and the Committee for International Support of Trade Union Rights, PO Box 31397, San Francisco, Ca 94131