



The women who went on the deputation to demand the lowering of the price of bread are (back row, from left to right) Mesdames G. Smith, Liz Abrahams, D. Tamana and G. Qalinga. In front are Mrs. K. White, Mrs. Rafisha and Mrs. F. Ntyapa.

"S.A. Mission Must Go"

Italian Workers Demand Trade Boycott of S.A.

From Our London Correspondent
THE workers of Italy are incensed by the exchange of trade missions between the governments of Italy and South Africa and through their trade unions and other organisations are actively working towards a mass boycott of South African goods.

THEY ARE DEMANDING THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY CEASE ALL TRADE CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT IT REQUESTS THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE MISSION AT PRESENT VISITING ITALY TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

The 3½ million strong General Confederation of Labour (CGIL)—the most powerful of the three trade union federations in Italy—in a statement issued this week declares that the official contacts of the Italian Government "with a Government that bases its existence on the shameful system of apartheid and the most hateful forms of racial segregation" have caused indignation and concern among the workers. Further, these contacts will substantially damage the general interests of Italy.

UNPLEASANT ROLE

"The recent visit of Mr. Martignelli, Italian Minister of Foreign Trade, to South Africa and the arrival of a South African economic mission in our country, places Italy in the unpleasant role of a friend of the racists at a time of the greatest isolation of the reactionary South African regime. This cannot but cast an equivocal light on the whole policy of the Italian government towards the new African nations, feed justified suspicions about Italy's policy, alienate sympathies and place our country among the nostalgics of Colonialism."

The CGIL says this policy may seriously damage Italy's trade relations with the independent African states.

"This fact is the more serious if we consider that there is an international campaign of boycott of South African goods now in progress, a campaign supported by all African countries and numerous Asian countries as well as by all international trade union organisations, including the ICFTU."

In the light of this, the CGIL regards the South African trade mission as an "offence to the good sense as well as the interests of our country and to the spirit of democracy and international solidarity of the Italian workers."

The CGIL is now consulting with the other trade federations and especially the dock and maritime workers' union to find ways in which the attitudes and interests of Italian workers may be effectively expressed on this question.

MASS CAMPAIGN

Other Italian organisations and political parties are also concerning

themselves with the question of trade relations with South Africa. The Italian Anti-Colonial Committee, with headquarters in Rome and sponsored by members of Parliament from all the parties as well as prominent public figures, is planning to subject the government to severe parliamentary criticism and to organise meetings all over Italy during May.

Meetings Banned For 3 Months, But

Sactu Deputation Sees Govt.

Protest Against Bread Price Increase

CAPE TOWN.

THE recent increase in the price of bread resulted in two Government officials having to face a deputation of eight determined women last Friday. The women wanted the price of bread reduced and were not interested in the amount of statistics the officials produced to prove that the increase could not be avoided.

The women represented the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, the Cape Housewives' League, the Zionist Church of Africa, the Mother's Union, the women's section of the Langa Vigilance Association, and the Federation of S.A. Women.

"VERY BUSY"

The women, who had arranged to meet the Minister of Finance, were received instead by two officials, Mr. Brown and Mr. De Swart, representing the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture respectively. The deputation asked why they could not see the Minister of Finance as arranged, and were told that he was "very busy in Parliament."

The women came to the point and said that they wanted the price of bread reduced because the working people could not afford to pay the increased price.

Mrs. G. Smith, one of the deputation, pointed out that since other commodities were steadily going up in price, the poor turned to bread as the cheapest food, thus it had become a staple diet. Since this too had been increased in price, the people were finding it difficult to feed their children properly.

STATISTICS

The officials then attempted to show that the increase could not be avoided. They produced statistics on the prices of machinery, tractors and oil and a host of other things.

The women were not interested. They did not understand the rigmarole of statistics, they said. All they wanted was that the price of bread be reduced.

Messrs Brown and De Swart then produced more figures to show that although brown bread was cheaper, the majority of people bought the dearer white bread.

Brown bread was tasteless, the mothers replied. If you bought brown bread the children wanted butter or golden syrup on it. Besides, brown bread was wasteful because it crumbled when cut.

They wanted the price of bread lowered, they repeated.

Mrs. Dora Tamana said that in the past the Africans could produce their own food on the land, but now their land had been taken away and they were being forced to come to the cities to work for starvation wages.

The officials, it appeared, did not know anything about the land problems of the African people. People could buy mealie-meal instead of bread, they suggested.

Mealie-meal was no more economical than bread, the women said. That was not the solution. The price of bread must be lowered.

Well, the officials said, they would take the matter back to the Ministers. The delegation then left, determined to go back and fight again if bread prices are not lowered.

SACTU Will Be Represented At

ALL AFRICAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN MAY

From B. Lipman

JOHANNESBURG.

THE first conference to inaugurate the new All African Trade Union Federation will take place in Lagos, Nigeria, in mid-May.

At the conference the Federation will adopt the draft constitution that has been drawn up by the Steering Committee, which already represents 19 African countries.

The South African Congress of Trade Unions, which is a senior member of the committee, reports that it is proposed that Africa be zoned into regions of trade union

activity, and that Johannesburg should become the headquarters for a region which will include South Africa, the British Protectorates, the Central African Federation, and Portuguese East Africa.

It is not proposed that the new Federation should affiliate to any international trade union body.

INDUSTRIALISATION

Questions to be discussed at conference will include those of industrialisation for the newly independent countries of Africa, the general raising of wages and productivity, and the ending of exploitation on a colour-bar basis, as in South Africa.

Conference is expected to take a strong stand in support of economic and trade union sanctions against the present South African government, and to ask the workers of all other African countries to refuse to handle South African goods.

Killed in Fight

EAST LONDON.

One African was killed and another injured in a fight between two groups of African youths at a beer dance in Kwelega, East London district, recently. Thirteen of the 40 youths involved were arrested.

TRANSKEI CHIEFS HIT BANTU EDUCATION

Their Children Suffering Like All The Others

PORT ELIZABETH.

AT a meeting held recently in the Rotary Hall at Umtata, Kaiser Matanzima, chairman of the Transkei Territorial Authority, surprised everybody by launching a vicious attack on Bantu Education, and demanding that English should be the medium of instruction while Afrikaans and African languages should be taught as subjects.

"Wonder of wonders" some of the people who heard him speak said as they left the hall.

The meeting had been arranged by Mr. Hans Abraham, the Commissioner-General, although he was not there in person. Complaints and questions had been put to him by the policemen-chiefs about the manner in which Bantu Education was being implemented. It is widely felt that through Bantu Education many children are being denied an opportunity to acquire education.

WEEDING-OUT

The chiefs complained that the weeding out that takes place at the Standard 2 level condemned thousands of children at an early age to life outside school. They complained even more bitterly against the bottle-neck at Standard 6.

According to the present arrangement standard 6 passes are graded 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Those who pass 3rd grade are issued leaving certificates which merely indicate, if an employer should want proof of educational attainment, that the holder did attempt standard 6.

As a result of this grading hundreds of pupils are denied the opportunity to proceed to Junior Certificate. And the children of the chiefs and stooges have been hit as hard as anybody's.

Furthermore, because the Chiefs are in a better financial position to provide for post-primary education for their children, they are not prepared to accept a position in which their own children too are condemned to work as unskilled labourers in the mines, on the roads and on the sugar plantations, as Chief Tutor Ndamase put it.

Chief Tutor was even more outspoken than Matanzima. He complained bitterly that the Nationalist Government had promised them "self-rule", but was now imposing on them a type of education they did not like. He said it was no wonder that their people were up in arms against the Chiefs and the Bantu Authorities, and he prophesied that more heads would yet be chopped off.

DEMAND ENGLISH

Tutor Ndamase said when he was overseas he was able to converse with people from various parts of the world because he could speak English which, he said, was a universal language. He was referring to his trip two years ago under the auspices of the M.R.A.

The Government had sent from Pretoria Dr. van Zyl, Professional Assistant to the Director of Bantu Education, to try to allay the anxieties of the Chiefs about the future of their children under Bantu Education. He was surrounded by lesser lights in the Bantu Education Department.

The meeting was attended by Primary and Secondary Schools' principal teachers from the Tembuland and western Pondoland districts, chiefs and sub-chiefs, inspectors and school supervisors.

Advisory Board Resigns

EAST LONDON.

The East London Advisory Board has resigned en bloc after fierce accusations at a public meeting that they were sell-outs and stooges of the Government.

The dispute arose over the payment of the 2s. lodger's fee, to which the people are strongly opposed.

NZO JAILED

Mr. Alfred Nzo, former ANC National Executive member, has been sent to jail for two months for being in Alexandra Township without a permit. Mr. Nzo had taken his conviction on appeal to the Supreme Court, but the judges' decision went against him.

AFRICAN FORUM— Our readers write

WIND OF CHANGE IN BECHUANALAND

That the Bechuanaland Protectorate will have a Legislative Council this year has aroused widespread interest in the Protectorate. The following vital points focus attention on the constitution which has now received the approval of the United Kingdom Parliament:

(a) Among other things the constitution provides that the time is not as yet ripe for the African inhabitants to elect representatives to the Legislative Council. Consequently the electoral constituency will be the African Council to replace the African Advisory Council.

(b) The Constitution also provides that of the 21 elected members, 10 will be Africans 10 Europeans and 1 Asian. In addition to these there will be 7 nominated official members and 3 ex-officio members.

CRITICISM

Enlightened African opinion, criticising the constitution of the proposed Legislative Council, in the press and elsewhere, points out that the administrators are very wrong to hold that the time is not ripe for Africans to elect their own representatives to the Legco. This frame of mind is, to say the least, considered to be subversive of democratic principles and might lead the Territory to a state of political chaos and unrest later.

Whether this volume of criticism will pass unnoticed or ignored by the British Government no one can tell. African criticism of the constitution which affects their welfare is a unique force to be reckoned with seriously. There is ample opportunity for the Government to reconsider and modify this

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constitution without necessarily waiting for a political hurricane in the future.

The population of the Protectorate is approximately 300,000 of whom only 2,500 are Europeans, the rest being Africans and Coloureds etc., with the Africans forming the largest majority. From this analysis, it is obviously unfair to equalise the number of African elected members with that of European elected members—a balance which is done regardless of the preponderance of the African population.

This is a serious political blunder which must be righted immediately if Britain wishes to retain the confidence of her African subjects in the constitutional developments being undertaken in the Protectorate.

To say that the time is not ripe for the African people of this Protectorate to elect people of their own choice to represent them in the Territorial Legislative Council is to perpetuate the old and unpopular system of representation by chiefs on the basis of Tribalism. Without necessarily abolishing the institution of chieftainship, the Batswana feel that in order to cope with this constitutional development, Chiefs should surrender their age-long powers to the mass from which alone dynamic leadership, essentially needed today, should emerge, while the chieftainship remains the symbol of local unity and to be constituted in line with the British monarchy.

NO NEED

On the question of the establishment of the African Council, African opinion in the whole Territory feels that there is no need at all for this Council which is considered to be merely a change of name rather than of the Council's functions, status, and the basis of its membership. It is public knowledge that members of the African Advisory Council (including the chiefs) were appointed by the chiefs who rarely consulted the tribes they claimed to represent. Is the African Council to be established going to be free from these defects? Against the establishment of this Council, enlightened African opinion advocates strongly immediate and direct representation like the European inhabitants.

It should be abundantly clear that it is the earnest wish of the people that these constitutional developments should take place under as peaceful an atmosphere as is possible. But this present system is fraught with dangers which may culminate in political unrest.

The wind of change is definitely blowing in Bechuanaland and to be reactionary to it is to make it blow all the harder.

B.P. POLITICAL SPECTATOR.
Bechuanaland.

Unless otherwise stated, F. Carneson, of 6 Barrack St., Cape Town, is responsible for all political matter in this issue. Johannesburg news from Ruth First, R. Resha and Joe Gqabi, of 102 Progress Buildings, 154 Commissioner St. Cape Town news from A. la Guma, of 6 Barrack St. Durban news from M. P. Naicker, of 602 Lodson House, 118 Grey St. Port Elizabeth news from Govan Mbeki, of 20 Court Chambers, 129 Adderley Street.

Ruggerites Swing Into Action

WITH all sports codes making big advances, the question is often asked: "what about rugby?"

This is especially strong in the Transvaal, Border and Eastern Province.

WELL. THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO MOVE.

- The Eastern Province Coloured Union has deleted its racial tag.
- The union is open to all rugby-players.
- Together with the African union it is planning a tour by a non-racial team which will travel to the W.P. and Transvaal.
- Funds from this tour will be put in trust for the non-racial open Federation which will be set up shortly.
- THE UNION HAS WRITTEN TO THE S.A. BOARD WITH A REQUEST THAT MATCHES BE ASKED FOR AGAINST TOURING SIDES SUCH AS THE WALLABIES AND THE LIONS.

This progress will depend on the support of the S.A. Coloured Board. Recently this Board had its AGM. The Secretarial Report is a pathetically APOLOGETIC document—apologising for inaction. WORSE—it makes excuses for the present racial set-up shielding behind location permits and the Group Areas Act.

THIS IS THE KIND OF NON-SENSE WE HEARD FROM THE ALL-WHITE GOLF UNION—WE DON'T EXPECT IT FROM BODIES SERVING OUR INTERESTS.

A welcome note in the report was the suggestion that the HQ should be moved from Kimberley. If this happens, we can expect real progress—nothing has happened since the Board took root in Kimberley.

Cheers This Week

Must go to Tiny Abed for his outspoken criticisms of the all-Coloured Rhodes Tournament to be staged by the Coloured rugby unions in June: it is time this was scrapped. But there is still some hope.

THE OPEN UNIONS WILL SELECT THEIR PLAYERS FROM ALL RACIAL GROUPS—so the old Coloureds-only line will be a thing of the past.

And Good Wishes

To the S.A. Netball Board who have agreed to stage their national tournament in Port Elizabeth during September. Let's have more of the small bodies in the regions linking up with the Board for a biggest-ever tournament!

More Sport Break-

Throughs

- The Pakistan and West Indies Cricket Boards will demand that S.A. revise her race policy in cricket before she is admitted as a member of the Imperial Cricket Conference after "republic day."

BIRTHS

NAIDOO—to Vasendha (Phyllis) and M.D., a son on 4th April, 1961. Both well.

ADDRESS WANTED

Will anyone knowing the address of Mr. Fezile Mbi please communicate with New Age immediately. We have an important personal letter for him.

* SCOREBOARD *

* by RECORDER *

● The Secretary of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games Federation has agreed to consult SASA when the question of S.A.'s re-admission to the Commonwealth Games is discussed.

● **Biggest news of all: THE ALL AFRICA SPORTS FEDERATION IS READY TO GET TOUGH.** This body of all African countries will take concerted action if S.A. sends racist teams to international events. This is such an important development that it must be dealt with in a special feature.

● Otto Mayer, Chancellor of the International Olympic Committee, has sent SASA a copy of the latest IOC bulletin: it contains an article stating that it is only a matter of time before the non-white countries dominate the Olympics.

We are getting ready to enter the FINALS in our fight for non-racial sport!

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