

African Building Workers' Industrial Union.

EF824

C O P Y

14th June, 1963.

Sir Hugh Stephenson, K.G.M.G., C.I.E., C.V.O., O.B.E.,  
His Excellency the High Commissioner,  
for the British Protectorates,  
6 Hill Street,  
PRETORIA.

Dear Sir,

The South African Congress of Trade Unions, representing 53,000 workers of all races, protests most strongly at the despatch of British troops to Swaziland in the belief that a show of force will crush the outstanding strike of the Havelock miners and of the workers in the general strike at Mbabane. We also protest at the arrest of the strike leaders.

The workers in Swaziland have always been paid wages which are below subsistence level. Instead of negotiating with the workers there is a demonstration of the armed might of the British Government. British soldiers parading the streets of Mbabane will not help the workers to feed their families and the British Government should have learnt by now that if this strike is crushed and the grievances of the workers not redressed, a similar situation will arise shortly.

We call on the British authorities to withdraw the troops, release the arrested leaders and start immediate negotiations with the workers.

We shall be grateful if you will convey these views to your Government.

Yours faithfully,  
SIGNED: (MRS).P.M: ALTMAN.  
Assistant General Secretary.

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**FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963**

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