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IZWILETHU



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PHILLIP IS FREE !

Unionist released after eighteen months in jail

SA BLACK Municipal and Allied Workers' Union general secretary Phillip Dlamini was released from prison on July 12 after being jailed for 18 months. Phillip, one of the leaders of the historic Johannesburg municipal workers strike of 1980, was jailed at the end of July 1983 for refusing to give evidence for the State in the Terrorism Act trial of Lillian Keagile.

Phillip also spent more than six months in jail before he was called to give evidence. He was called three times — but each time he refused to testify. Ms Keagile was later jailed for six years. Phillip's wife, Phindile, and their children Mathapelo (7) and Tebogo (5) were there to meet him when he was released from Johannesburg Prison.

He says his spirits were kept high by people who stood by him when he was in prison. "The letters and cards I received kept me going. I really want to thank those people. It showed that they appreciated the stand I took — and that's why I will do it all over again," he said. "I have no regrets whatsoever. In fact, I still feel that I did the right thing."



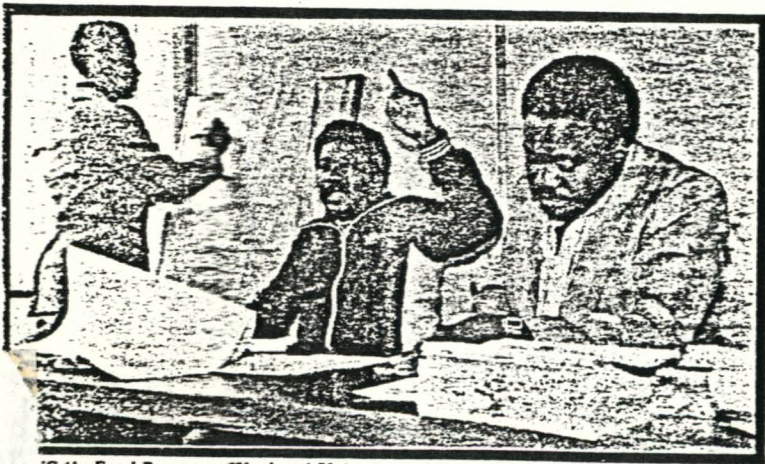
An overjoyed Phillip Dlamini with his wife Phindile and their son Mathapelo (7) after his release this month. He was jailed for 18 months towards the end of July 1983 for refusing to give evidence for the State in a Terrorism Act trial.

While in prison, Phillip was also called to appear in court with eight members of the Azanian National Youth Union (Azanyu). The case was later withdrawn

against him. "I want to make it clear that I was never a member of Azanyu," says Phillip. "I was made a member by the police, who fabricated a story against me. I was only detained for union matters." Phillip spent most of his sentence at Heldestroop Prison in Calendo, but was later transferred to Lecookop. He said he intended taking legal

action against a prison doctor who refused to examine him after he had complained of ulcers and flu. "I know about the strides the National Union of Mineworkers has made, the unity talks and the Mahuleka case, just to name a few," he says. "I am glad to be back. I still feel I was arrested for my union activities." Phillip Dlamini has returned to his duties with SABMAWU.

FBWU in action



ISA's Food Beverage Workers' Union is working as hard as ever. Here is a meeting their shop stewards at Coca Cola. From left to right is David Thathe, regional secretary of three Coca Cola companies, Bernard "Skakes" Sikhakhane, FBWU's general secretary, and George Nene, chairman of the union's Central Rand region. FBWU recently won a victory for 21 dismissed workers at Coca Cola. The union threatened to take the company to court. Coca Cola gave in and an out-of-court settlement was reached. They agreed to pay each of the dismissed workers R500, forcing the company to part with R10 500 altogether. Keep up the good work, FBWU!

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Mines hit by strikes

THE MINES have been rocked by strikes this month because workers are unhappy about the new pay increases which came into effect on July 1.

The first flash of violence flared on June 25 when a miner was shot dead and four others seriously injured during a strike at Anglo American's Coronation Colliery near Vryheid.

The strike started that morning when 1 700 mineworkers refused to go underground. Police said the worker, Mhlanguleni Mthethwa, was shot dead when a group of "unknown persons" opened fire.

The seriously injured mineworkers were:

- Milton Ntshingala;
- Simon Nxumalo;
- Simon Negovu; and
- Moses Nkosi.

NUM slammed the Chamber of Mines, and said the strike was sparked off by the Chamber's refusal to meet the workers' wage demands.

"The strike comes soon after we warned the Chamber that there was a large-scale labour unrest if it implemented the announced wage increases on July 1," said NUM.

"The workers have expressed their anger at the low wages which they have been offered."

There were also work stoppages at Rand Mines' Rietsspruit Colliery and at the Dover Colliery in Witbank over a deadlock in wage negotiations this month.

More than 2 000 workers were involved in the stoppages.

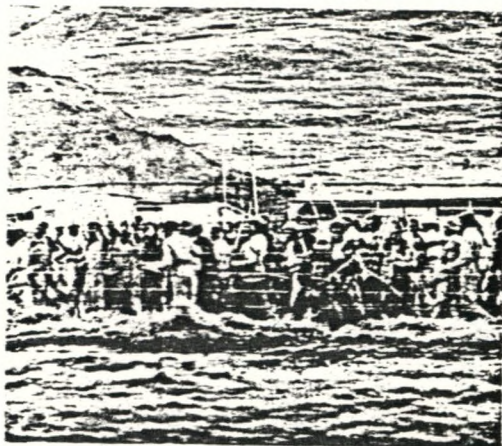
Another 1 000 mineworkers downed tools at the Kriel and Goedehoop collieries on July 2 — a third of the total workforce at both mines. They refused to go underground.

On July 4 about 3 200 mineworkers went on strike at Rand Mines Douglas Colliery outside Witbank.

The strike hit two sections of the colliery — the Wolwekrans and Van Dyk's Drift sections.

At Wolwekrans, more than 900 of the mineworkers gathered outside their hostel and chanted "Mali! Mali!" (Money! Money!).

Mineworkers at the Kriel and Goedehoop collieries returned to



The mining industry has been rocked by several strikes this year.

work on July 4 on condition that the pay increases were shelved until the wage dispute between NUM and the Chamber was resolved.

A NUM spokesman said the Chamber had agreed to back-date to July 1 any increases which were awarded as a result of a settlement of the dispute.

Workers at the Douglas Colliery returned to work on July 6 after threats that they would be fired and bussed home.

NUM has since filed applications for the appointment of conciliation boards by the Minister of Manpower. If the boards are appointed, and fail to resolve the dispute, NUM can declare a legal strike.

This would be the first legal strike by black mineworkers in South Africa.

"That a strike could force the rand down is not our problem," said NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa. "When we strike for a living wage, those in command of the rand's value should be most concerned."

"Considerations like the economy do not even enter our minds when we make our demands."

NUM is demanding a 25% across-the-board increase for mineworkers. The Chamber, however, refuses to increase its final offer of 14.4%.

It has been a tough battle for

NUM — it has taken a lot of time, energy and hard work to push up the Chamber's offer from 9.5% to 10.9% to 13.3% to 14.4%.

And the fight is far from over. The threat of a legal strike still hangs in the air.

The Minister of Manpower has until the end of July to appoint conciliation boards.

Meanwhile, about 1 700 mineworkers have been fired at the Penge asbestos mine in the Eastern Transvaal after they refused to end their week-long strike by July 9.

The workers went on strike in protest against this year's pay increases, which range from 12-13% (even lower than the Chamber's increase).

The fired workers are members of the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union (Bamcwa). They have refused to leave the mine grounds.

Production has ground to a halt at the mine, near Burgersfort, which is owned by the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Corporation.

The workers are demanding an across-the-board increase of R10 a shift for all workers (at present the lowest-paid workers get R2.50 a shift, which is about 10 hours long on average).

The company intends to recruit a new workforce. The union, on the other hand, intends to take legal action over the dismissals.

Give them back their jobs!

CUSA's SA Chemical Workers' Union has applied to the Minister of Manpower to appoint a conciliation board to try and get 440 workers reinstated who were dismissed earlier this year at Triomf's fertiliser plant in Potchefstroom.

The application follows the acquittal of 19 Triomf workers who were tried under the Intimidation Act in the Potchefstroom Regional Court last month. (See page 3).

The charges resulted from a work stoppage at the plant on April 12 when workers downed tools in support of colleagues who refused to undergo an alcohol test. On that day, workers were warned they would lose their jobs if they did not return to work by 10am the next day.

When they arrived at the plant the next day, they found police waiting outside the gates. Nineteen workers were arrested, including SACWU members and shop stewards.

The case against them was dismissed because the State failed to produce sufficient evidence to support the charge.

"We are applying for a conciliation board for the reinstatement of all the workers. If the board fails to resolve the issue, we will take the



Monele Samela: A SACWU organiser.

matter to the Industrial Court," said SACWU.

Most of the 440 dismissed workers have been replaced which could cause a headache for Triomf if the conciliation board decides in SACWU's favour.

SACWU has had lots of problems with Triomf. In March the Potchefstroom plant was also hit by a strike when workers protested against the company's refusal to refer a long-standing wage dispute to arbitration.

The strike was only settled when Triomf's managing director personally intervened and offered to compensate the workers at the end of the year if the company makes a profit.

SACWU is showing that the workers are no longer scared to stand up to the bosses. It is a very healthy sign.

Steel workers strike

ABOUT 600 workers at MRT Barton's in Boksburg went on strike on July 4 over the metal industry Industrial Council's 20% wage offer.

The workers, members of CUSA's Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers' Union, demanded "a living wage" and rejected the offer made by the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa for the metal industry's estimated 380 000 workers.

SEA WUSA signed the IC's

wage agreement under protest and indicated that they would bargain for bigger pay packets for their members at shop-floor level.

This was the first labour unrest in the metal industry since the IC's minimum pay rises of 40c/hour for skilled and unskilled workers respectively was signed in June.

Workers were unhappy with the increases and saw they approached management to negotiate a "better deal".

Leave our shop stewards alone!

ABOUT 200 members of CUSA's United African Motor and Allied Workers' Union (UAMAWU) downed tools this month in protest against the harassment of their shop stewards.

The UAMAWU members — workers at Diesel Electric in Johannesburg — said the company was using a number of tactics to prevent shop stewards meeting with workers.

They felt this amounted to harassment of their shop stewards. As a result, 170 workers downed tools at the automotive spares suppliers' warehouse on July 15.

The workers are also unhappy

about the firms wages. At the moment the lowest-paid worker at Diesel Electric earns R160 a month.

The striking workers demanded an across-the-board increase of R150. But, emphasised shop steward P Sibisi, the strike was not just about money.

"The management of the firm has employed a number of tactics to prevent shop stewards meeting with workers," he said. "The strike is not just about money."

"Management also keeps on postponing discussions about recognition of the union."

The firm's management threatened to fire the striking workers if they did not return to work at the time *Izwilethu* went to press.

CUSA organiser in court

CUSA ORGANISER Siphso Radebe appeared in the Johannesburg Regional Magistrate's Court on July 17 on a charge of possessing pamphlets published by the Pan African Congress (PAC).

Siphso is charged under the Internal Security Act of 1974, which bans possession of documents published or distributed by a banned organisation.

The pamphlets were found in his car during a police roadblock. "Pokela: Leader of the PAC" and "Speeches of Mangaliso Sobukwe" — published by PAC headquarters in New York — were discovered in Siphso's possession on November 4 last year.

Siphso has said he had no idea that the pamphlets were banned. If he had, he said, he would either have taken them to the police or destroyed them.

The Cusa organiser received two envelopes on his desk on November 4.

One was a letter from a Mr Edwards, a British friend. The other was a large unsigned envelope. Both had been sent from England.

"I opened the envelope and glanced at the pamphlet which was on top," he said.

"I read *Pokela: Leader of the PAC*."

"But I did not read it, nor did I look to see what else was in the envelope."

"I was late for a meeting and was in a hurry to get there."

"I took the pamphlets out of the envelope and placed them in my briefcase."

"I always read my mail when I get home."

"After the meeting, I went to Soweto. I noticed a roadblock, but did nothing to avoid it — I've been through them many times before."

A policeman found the publications in Siphso's briefcase.

"Because neither of the men were sure the pamphlets were banned, the officer confiscated the papers and gave me a receipt for them."

"The next day, I went through the *Government Gazette* at the office, but could not find whether they were banned or not," said Siphso.

"I had not read the pamphlets at all, and did not know they were prohibited."

"It was the first time I had been sent such publications through the post."

Mr G J Marpa, counsel for Siphso, said during argument that Siphso had no way of knowing the pamphlets were banned.

"All he did was glance at the title — which says nothing about the pamphlet being published by the PAC," he said.

"He had no way of knowing what the publication entailed. It need not necessarily have contained subversive material."

The hearing was postponed to July 27 for judgement.

Motor workers show . . . Unity is strength



Derek Nwatshe, general secretary of the Union, at the scene of the strike.

WORKERS at three motor companies in Pretoria showed in June that they were no longer prepared to accept the crumbs that the bosses dish out to them each time.

More than 5 000 workers at three companies in the motor trade at Roslyn, near Pretoria, downed tools on June 25 after the companies' bosses refused to give them a large pay increase.

The strike was sparked off when the bosses of the three companies — Nissan Motor Company and its two sister companies Magnis Truck Corporation and Motorware — refused to give them a 75c an hour increase.

Most of the workers who downed tools are members of CUSA's United African Motor and Allied Workers' Union. They took the decision to strike at a general meeting on June 27.

Workers first became suspicious of what their bosses were up to when there was a delay in issuing them notices about their July increases (usually given during the first or second week in June).

UAMAWU shop stewards then

had a meeting with the bosses. They were then told that they could get an increase of only between 8c and 10c an hour.

This was nowhere near the workers' demand of a 75c an hour increase! However, they tried to avoid a confrontation with their bosses, and dropped their demand to a 45c an hour increase.

But the bosses rejected this too. Workers then decided to hold out for their demand, and refused to return to work until their demand had been met.

They felt it was high time the bosses took into account that workers needed an increase every time there was an increase in the cost of living.

And they demanded that the increase be an across-the-board one. "We are tired of being graded into different sections when all of us are responsible for production," they said during the strike.

"This is part of the deliberate attempts by the authorities to divide us."

Workers also felt they desperately needed a large pay increase because of the new 10% general sales tax, which has hit blacks particularly hard.

Their strike brought production at the three companies to a standstill.

But UAMAWU was told that even if it dropped its demand of 45c an hour increase to a 20c an hour increase, the bosses would still refuse to agree to it.

When the striking workers went to work on the Friday of June 29 to fetch their pay-packets, a stamp was put on their pay slips — leading to fears that they might be expelled when they went back to work.

They decided to return to work on July 2 when negotiations reopened between UAMAWU and the management of the three companies — the bosses raising their offer to an increase of 16c an hour.

But the workers still demanded a bigger increase. Eventually they decided on July 3 to accept an offer of an increase of 20c an hour.

This was more than double the initial offer of 8c an hour made by the bosses — a victory for the motor workers.

It was another outstanding example of the power of workers if they stand together. Unity IS definitely strength.

Pretoria's motor workers showed this beyond doubt!

Another victory for the workers!

ANOTHER victory for the workers! After a year-long dispute with Putco, more than 8 000 transport workers will finally be given a 15,5% wage increase.

The award is a major victory for CUSA's Transport and Allied Workers' Union and Fosatu's Transport and General Workers' Union.

The award was made to them on June 27 by an arbitrator in Johannesburg after a three-month long arbitration, chaired by a University of South Africa labour consultant, P K le Roux.

Because transport is regarded as an essential service, the workers were prevented by law from resorting to a legal strike.



James Sikhosana, general secretary of TAWU.

Dispute

As a result, they declared a dispute with Putco in July last year. Then the long months of agony and suspense followed — they were forced to sit out 11 months of mediation and arbitration.

But it was worth it in the long run, if only to prove that workers were not prepared to accept every time what the bosses dished out to them.

The arbitrator made the increase retrospective for six months, which means that all Putco's workers will receive an across-the-board increase of 15,5% back-dated to January.

This is in addition to the 6% interest on the retroactive lump sum payment.

The deal is far better than the final offer made by Putco's management before the dispute went to mediation last year.

Putco was then offering an increase of only R4 a week, to be followed by an additional R3 at a later date.

The R4 across-the-board increase amounted to a maximum increase of about 6%.

In terms of the arbitrator's judgement, Putco drivers will now receive a minimum increase of R16, and other transport workers a minimum rise of R9 or R10.

The unions are happy with the increase their members will now receive. The back-pay is estimated to amount to a lump sum of about R3-million.

SACWU court case

THE CASE against 19 Triomf Fertiliser workers charged under the Intimidation Act after a strike at the company on April 12 was thrown out of the Potchefstroom Regional Court on June 25.

The State failed to provide sufficient evidence in support of the charge.

Magistrate T F Veldman gave witnesses appearing for the State two hours to supply facts about the intimidation charges.

When they failed to do so, the magistrate dismissed the case on the basis that the charges had not disclosed an offence.

The prosecutor conceded that the State did not know which specific people had been intimidated nor did he know what threats had been made.

The 19 workers — among them members and shop stewards of CUSA's SA Chemical Workers' Union — were arrested on April 13 after a work stoppage at the Triomf factory outside Potchefstroom.

About 400 workers were involved in the strike altogether, which started on April 12. The use of

breathalysers by the company to test the alcohol consumption of workers sparked it off.

Ultimatum

A SACWU official said management issued an ultimatum to the strikers to return to work by 10am the following day or to face dismissal.

When the workers arrived at the factory that day, said the official, they found a contingent of police waiting outside the gates.

It was then that the 19 workers were picked out from the crowd and arrested.

They were subsequently held in jail for a weekend, charged under the Intimidation Act and released on bail of R500 each.

And so ended happily — at least this time — another chapter in the harassment and victimisation of workers in South Africa.

FBWU takes on three companies

CUSA's FOOD Beverage Workers' Union has declared disputes with three companies on the Reef over trade union recognition and dismissals.

The three companies are Dairy Maid, Sacca Products Limited and Gravara Products.

FBWU's branch organiser Glen Mokoena said the disputes will be settled by the Industrial Court in July.

FBWU instituted legal action against Dairy Maid after the mass dismissal of workers during a strike at the company's Oifantesfontein ice-cream factory in February this year.

The union has applied for a conciliation board hearing, and intends to have the matter heard in the Industrial Court on the basis of an unfair labour practice.

About 300 workers went on a week-long strike at the factory after they demanded the transfer of a supervisor. The workers said the supervisor used a sjambok to exercise discipline.

They also said he had assaulted several workers in this way.

During the week of the strike, intensive discussions were held between FBWU and management. Dairy Maid finally gave the workers an ultimatum — return to work or be dismissed.

Altogether 160 strikers did not return to work,

and were subsequently dismissed.

FBWU has applied to the Industrial Court to reinstate the workers.

The union has also applied for the reinstatement of a member who was dismissed from Sacca Products Limited in April this year.

FBWU has applied for a Section 43 order. They said the company first said the member — G Shuburi — was dismissed, but then later told him he was retrenched.

"We have discovered that the member was not actually retrenched, but was dismissed for organising other workers to join the union," said the union.

At Gravara Products in Silverton, management has threatened to fire workers if they belong to a trade union.

According to FBWU, the company has also challenged workers to go on strike, because they would then close the company and leave them jobless.

FBWU has decided to take the matter to the Industrial Court to protect their members.

FBWU has done a lot to advance the workers' struggle in South Africa. It is one of the hardest-working unions in the country, with more than 60 recognition agreements to its credit.

No-one can doubt its sincerity and commitment to the plight of workers. Its decisions to take the three companies to court is just one more indication of this.

Forward with the workers' struggle!

THE NEW DEAL IS NO DEAL

THE SO-CALLED new constitution is a desperate attempt by the Nationalist government to retain power. Violence and force have failed miserably in the past. Now it is trying to keep the masses oppressed through a sophisticated new scheme — a new constitution which is apparently moving away from apartheid as we know it.

However, if one looks at the New Deal closely, it is clear that it is only the method of oppression which is changing — the end result is the same.

Blacks are still left without any real voice in the power machinery of this country. The so-called New Deal merely entrenches racism in a more subtle but far more dangerous way.

The Bantustans and the Black Local Authorities are supposed to accommodate the political aspirations of the majority of this country's people.

However, it is absurd to expect 13% of the country — among the most poverty-ridden patches of land in South Africa — to provide for 80% of its people.

This they have done over and over again so many times before. But the Nationalist government continues to cling to its policies of selfishness and greed.

Bankrupt

The politically and financially bankrupt councils in the townships are intended to fill in the Missing Pieces of the jigsaw puzzle.

Those "Africans" who live in "white" urban areas are supposed to be catered for by these powerless bodies.

And, to crown it all, the government has now come up with a grand design for "Indians" and "coloureds" too — the Master Plan of the President's Council (PC).

It is only the foolish and selfish who can see any merit in the new tricameral parliament. It is so blatantly racist and biased in favour of whites.

The President's Council itself — which will help the Executive President to run the country — is controlled by whites.

Nominated

Of the 60 people on the PC, 25 will be nominated by the President. It is so obvious that the President will choose mostly whites or those who support the Nationalist government's policies.

The rest of the PC will be made up of 20 elected whites, 10 elected "coloureds" and five elected "Indians" — a ratio of 4:2:1

(20:10:5).

If the president nominates 25 whites, the PC will be made up of 45 whites altogether, and 10 "coloureds" and five "Indians". The ratio will then be 9:2:1.

In other words, for every one "Indian", there will be nine whites on the PC, or for every two "coloureds", nine whites.

It does not take a mathematical wizard to work out that the 45 whites on the PC cannot and will never be outvoted by 15 blacks (10 "coloureds" and five "Indians").

Power

So the president wields a lot of power. Who elects him?

An electoral college made up of three racially separate houses of parliament — a House of Assembly for whites, a House of Representatives for "coloureds" and a House of Delegates for "Indians".

And there are also more whites than blacks in these houses of parliament.

The white House of Assembly will have 50 members, the "coloured" House of Representatives 25,

and the Indian House of Assembly 13 members.

Again the racial ratio is 4:2:1. Even together the number of blacks (38) will still be outnumbered by the whites (50).

It is thus dishonest to claim — as the reactionary Labour Party does — that it is possible to fight for change from within. How? It hopelessly loses the Numbers Game.

Neutralise

And it is not a coincidence. The new constitution is designed precisely to neutralise any opposition. It is indeed a Master Stroke of the Nationalist government.

The president alone is enough to crush any plans of change — he will appoint the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, and can also dismiss them.

He will also have the power to dismiss the PC itself and parliament, and can stop any law from being passed.

Is this really change? Or is it just a tightening of control over the oppressed masses?

If it is change, it is change for the worse.

The new constitution is like something out of a George Orwell novel — it is so crude and illogical, a fantasy of the Nationalists' imagination which just cannot hope to succeed.

Dominated

"Coloureds" and "Indians" will only be able to pass laws about their "own" affairs (of course, the white-dominated PC will decide what these mysterious Own Affairs are).

And, if the three racially separate houses of parliament cannot agree on what "general" affairs are, the mighty PC will once again step in and lay down The Line.

The PC will have the power to decide which version of General Affairs should become law. This version will then be regarded as having been passed by all three houses of parliament.

How new, then, is the new constitution when laws like the Group Areas Act, the Race Classification Act, the Separate Amenities Act and the Mixed Marriages Act will remain on the statute book?

There are numerous other immoral and unjust laws. How can these be removed when the president has the power to veto laws passed by parliament?

Fraud

The new constitution is the ultimate Con Job. It is the greatest

fraud perpetrated by the Nationalist government since it came to power in 1948.

We should not fall for it. Another danger of the new constitution — apart from conning the world that there is change in South Africa — is that it is spitting the black masses.

Or, at least, attempting to do so. Divide and Rule in its most crude form, by trying to drive a wedge between "Africans" and "coloureds" and "Indians".

And it is not only a matter of Strategy and Tactics. It will be a very real division — once "ans" and "coloureds" are white laager, they will also be expected to defend it.

Conscription will not be far off. You cannot sup with the Devil without paying some price.

Fight

Full military service is one of The Dangers of the New Deal — "Indians" and "coloureds" will now be expected to fight against their other black brothers and sisters.

The case of Swapo member Edward Binga is still painfully fresh in our minds — he is being called up by the SADF to be trained to fight in Namibia against his comrades in Swapo.

And those comrades include his very own brother. Are we going to allow this to happen in SA?

The New Deal will also need a lot more money to finance it. Is it really a coincidence that General Sales Tax has been increased to 10% a few weeks before the elections for the tricameral parliament?

More price increases and higher taxes are sure to follow, and there are bound to be further cutbacks in housing, education and other public services.

Who will suffer most?
The workers.
You and me.

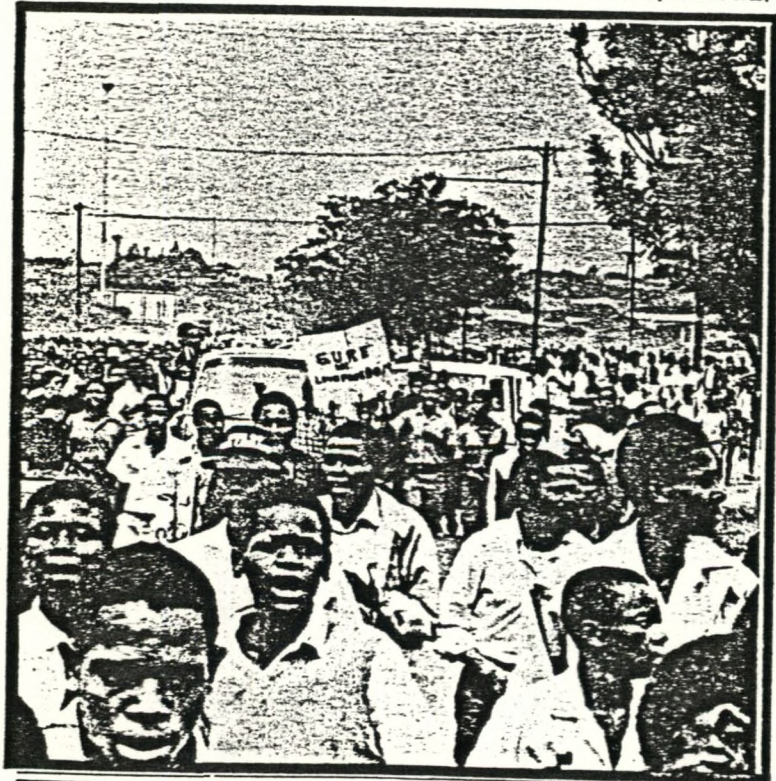
Oppression

The new constitution expects us to finance our own oppression. It is even asking some of us to participate in our oppression on August 22 and 28 by electing people to a tricameral parliament.

That is expecting a bit much. The new constitution will undoubtedly be introduced — no matter how much opposition there is to it.

But we need to fight it every inch of the way. Apartheid and its Big Brother capitalism has been with us in one form or another for centuries.

It is time this comes to an end. The Workers have built up this country. It is time it belongs to them.



Organised resistance to Govt continues to grow



NEVER BEFORE in the history of South Africa has there been so much organised resistance to apartheid. Organisations are mushrooming all over the country.

Their struggle against apartheid has reached a new peak — community organisations, trade unions, political bodies, church groups, student and youth bodies, women's organisations and sports bodies have joined forces.

In August last year a new phase in the struggle was reached when the United Democratic Front (UDF) — an umbrella body of about 600 such organisations — was launched in Cape Town.

UDF patron Allan Boesak predicted that it could become the most significant force in resistance politics in South Africa.

Last year also saw the birth of the National Forum Committee (NFC) — an alliance of about 100 organisations which has also come out strongly against apartheid.

On the labour front, 20 trade unions representing more than 300 000 workers have committed themselves to forming a powerful new federation.

FEDERATION

More trade unions are likely to join the new federation — a move which poses a major threat to apartheid, because it is the working class which is most viciously oppressed.

But the struggle to organise the oppressed and to forge unity is not a new one.

History is rich with the campaigns of the African National Congress (ANC), the SA Communist Party (SACP), the Pan African Congress (PAC), the Non-European Unity Movement (NELUM) and the Black Consciousness Movement.

There are also numerous other

organisations which reflect political thought to both the left and the right of these organisations.

The Industrial and Commercial Union (ICU), formed in 1919, also tried to mould the black working class into a unified force. The forties and fifties carried this work further.

After a wave of strikes in 1942, the Council of Non-European Trade Unions (CNETU) was formed.

Then followed the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) and the Federation of Free Trade Unions of SA (Fafatusa) in the fifties.

IMPACT

It is undoubtedly the ANC (and its labour wing Sactu) which has made the greatest impact in the struggle against apartheid. It is widely regarded as the leading force in the liberation struggle.

The ANC is continuing to win more political and diplomatic respect and militarily it is also becoming stronger.

About 4 000 students who fled

the country during the 1976 uprising joined the ranks of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the ANC's military wing.

Today the ANC is believed to have at least 7 000 trained guerrillas in its military wing (some estimates put this figure at 12 000).

It has, accordingly, stepped up its military campaign markedly — 22 people were killed in sabotage attacks last year and at least 305 injured.

The number of people killed last year was higher than in previous years because of the bomb explosion in Pretoria in May in which 19 people were killed.

INCIDENTS

Other incidents of political violence last year included:

- A bomb last January at the community council offices in Port Elizabeth, which killed one person and injured five.

- A bomb on a bridge at the main Bloemfontein/Hamilton railway line, which killed one man.

- Two bomb blasts at the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court in March and April, which caused damage of more than R60 000.

- Two explosions at the Department of Internal Affairs in Roodepoort, causing damages of about R250 000.

- Limpet mines which damaged six petrol storage tanks, two railway trucks and a road tanker in Warmbaths.

- Two limpet mines at the offices of the Ciskei consulate at the Carlton Centre in Johannesburg, causing damage of R100 000.

- Bombs on the Bosmont/Newclare railway line in Johannesburg, and on the Johannesburg/Durban railway line near Germiston.

- At least six bomb blasts and two other attempted acts of sabotage in

December.

It is immaterial whether one agrees with these acts or not — the point is that they are a result of the government's stubborn refusal to bring about genuine and fundamental change.

Of course, the government has chosen to naively dismiss these incidents as acts of terrorism. It is extremely short-sighted of them.

It will only lead to an escalation of violence — the murder of self-exiled activist Jeanette Schoon and her six-year-old daughter, Katryn, recently is a tragic example.

There will no doubt be more casualties in the struggle against apartheid.

But, instead of coming to grips with the root causes of anti-apartheid violence, the government is continuing with its repressive measures. Eighteen people have been detained since March this year.

SWOOP

The new countrywide security police swoop — which included raids on the Johannesburg office of Azapo and the homes of members and officials — exposes the so-called peace initiatives of the government.

They are nothing but a clumsy attempt to make our oppression more subtle.

On the one hand, we have so-called reforms in the form of a new tricameral parliament. On the other hand, however, we still have kragdadigheid in all its ruthless glory.

Twelve people are still banned, several more listed, detentions still carrying on, meetings still banned, and publications still declared undesirable.

The reason is simple — the people are demanding a full say in the

way their lives and their country is run.

Nothing less.

The tricameral parliament is nothing but an invitation to some sectors of the working class to participate in their own oppression.

It therefore cannot hope to succeed — even if apartheid itself undergoes some changes.

Because, in the end, it does not matter all that much if you are regarded as an equal when you are denied equal access to and control of the wealth of this country.

STRUGGLE

That is what the real struggle is all about — not about being able to visit any hotel you like, or sit in the same parks or ride on the same trains as whites.

The real struggle is for a new system which will redistribute the wealth of this country to as many people as possible — selfish and individualistic capitalism has no place in it.

The government realises this. It is not trying to preserve an irrational racism. It is fighting for the survival of capitalism.

That is what the real struggle is all about.

Pik Botha said he was not prepared to die for apartheid in a lift. P W Botha agreed — adapt or die, the Wise Man said.

But what they both forgot to tell us was that they were prepared to die for capitalism. Adapt apartheid, yes, but in such a way that capitalism will not be changed.

The ANC and other anti-apartheid forces realise this too. That is why the struggle is going to be long and bitter.

But there is no way the oppressed will give up their dream of a new and better society.

The struggle will continue.

Is this reform?

THE following statistics are from the latest annual survey of the South African Institute of Race Relations. They are reproduced below without any comment.

The figures tell their own story. Those who plan to vote in the elections in August should bear them in mind. They are a frightened indictment of those who support the Nationalist Government.

The Minister of Law and Order said that in February 61 people were restricted under the Internal Security Act. Of these, 16 had left South Africa. At the end of December there were 12 people restricted under the Internal Security Act.

Section 73 of the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1962, provided for all banning orders to continue for 12 months from July 1982, during which period they would be reviewed, and after which they would be renewed or allowed to lapse. In July 1983, of the 66 people under restriction, 10 had their orders reimposed.

At least 22 meetings were banned during 1983 in terms of section 46 of the Internal Security Act, on the grounds that they would endanger public peace. In April the Minister of Law and Order prohibited meetings that were not held 'within four walls' for one year by notice in the government gazette.

Detentions

The Minister of Law and Order said that 4 140 people had been held under section 6 of the Terrorism Act, No 83 of 1967, since its introduction in 1967 until 1 July 1982, and 130 people under section 29 (1) of the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1962, from its introduction in July 1982 until February 1983 (section 29 (1) of the Internal Security Act replaced section 6 of the Terrorism Act, which provided for persons to be held incommunicado for interrogation).

He said further that, between January and 16 May 1983, 48 people were detained. He said also that 149 persons were detained under section 29 (1) of the Internal Security Act in 1983.

Other records indicated that 306 people had been taken into detention in the period between 1 January and 31 August. Of these, 153 were detained in the 'independent homelands'. By 31 August, 114 of the total had been released without charge, and 58 had been charged. The highest number of detentions was in the Ciskei, with 88. The numbers of people detained in July and August (181) were higher than those detained between January and July (123). By 31 August 132 people were still in detention.

At the end of December, 453 people had been taken into detention during the year, 215 of them in 'independent homelands', and 238 in the rest of South Africa. Of those detained in the homelands, some 180 were detained in the Ciskei. On 31 December, there were 96 people still in detention. Of the 453, 285 had been released without charge.

Two people died in detention in 1983.

The total estimated expenditure on education for all population groups for the 1983/84 financial year was R3,96c, made up as follows:

African education in white areas	R561 318 000
Education in non-independent homelands	289 891 134
Education in 'independent' homelands	317 509 000
Indian education	225 052 000
Coloured education	450 736 000
White education	R2 062 624 000
Total	3 907 130 134

The estimated per capita spending by the state during 1982/83 on pupils of the different race groups was as follows:

	Including capital expenditure (R)	Excluding capital expenditure (R)
White	1 538.00	1 211.00
Indian	871.87	711.16
Coloured	593.37	497.59
African (in 'white' areas and non-independent homelands)	192.34	146.44

Pupil-teacher ratios
Pupil-teacher ratios for 1983, calculated from statistics supplied by the Department of Statistics, were:

White	18.2 to 1
Indian	23.6 to 1
Coloured	26.7 to 1
African	42.7 to 1

According to a senior planner in the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, housing requirements for the period 1982-1990 stood at 2.3 million—1 792 500 for Africans (including a 501 000 backlog), 250 000 for whites, 180 000 for coloured people, and 80 000 for Asians. While State expenditure on defence had risen from 11.5% of GDP in 1970 to 17.3% in 1980, expenditure on housing had fallen from 2.68% to 2.3% in the same period.

The housing shortage in urban African townships in 'white' South Africa continued to be a problem. It was currently estimated at 160 000 units. One of the major reasons for this backlog was the government's earlier policy of regarding Africans in urban areas in 'white South Africa' as temporary sojourners and, therefore, of placing a halt on the building of houses for them in these

areas from 1968. In 1976 this policy was partially revised, leading to a recommencement in housing construction. However, the number of units built per year has failed to reduce the shortage significantly, let alone meet the increased need arising from population growth and urbanisation.

A national research project on relocation, the Surplus People Project (SPP)—the result of three years work—claimed that about 3 500 000 removals had taken place since 1960 (excluding removals within the homelands, those resulting from betterment planning, and those resulting from pass-law enforcement). More than 1 500 000 removals were still due to take place, the report said.

The Minister of Community Development said that the following numbers of families had been moved from the commencement of the Group Areas Act up to 31 December 1982.

	White	Coloured	Indian
Cape	780	64 489	2 965
Transvaal	688	11 434	11 606
OFS	—	2 300	—
Natal	817	3 725	24 914
Total	2 285	81 948	39 485

	White	Coloured	Indian
Cape	69	3 172	688
Transvaal	31	1 463	1 465
OFS	—	—	—
Natal	31	529	1 659
Total	100	5 164	3 812

Median pay by race group at different levels of skill (Rand per month)

Year and race group	Unskilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled
1983			
White	589 (100)	797 (100)	1 407 (100)
Coloured	428 (73)	681 (85)	1 187 (84)
Asian	383 (65)	618 (77)	990 (70)
African	351 (56)	524 (65)	849 (60)

The unemployment situation worsened as the economic recession continued. Some academics estimated the total unemployed at 2.5 to 3m. The number of strikes in 1982 totalled 336, of which 101 were over

wage demands. A sharp increase in strikes occurred in December, when 104 were held, almost one third of the whole of the preceding eleven months. The total number of workers in all the strikes was 64 469.

	1980	1981
Infant deaths		
White	982	1 067
Coloured	4 431	4 839
Asian	482	494
African	22 713	21 605

According to a report on demographic trends in South Africa, the average life expectancy of the different race groups in South Africa is as follows:

	Years
White	70
Coloured	59
Indian	65
African	57.5

The Minister of Internal Affairs, said that in 1982 a total of 242 297 applications for passports and the renewal of passports were received. Applications by nine coloured people, 33 Indians, 37 Africans, and 29 whites were refused. In 1983, a total of 317 703 applications for passports were received. Applications by nine coloured people, 20 Indians, 25 Africans, and seven whites were refused.

Professor A N Boyce, former rector of the Johannesburg College of Education, said that there was one doctor each for every 330 whites, 730 Indians, 1 200 coloured people, and 12 000 Africans. The situation in the homelands was critical, with one doctor each for every 14 000 people in the Transkei, 17 000 people in Bophuthatswana, and 19 000 people in Gazankulu.

In July, the government, in terms of the Internal Security Act, published the names of 134 people to be entered on to a 'consolidated list' to be kept by the Director of Security Legislation.

On 28 February 1983 there were 286 prisoners on Robben Island serving sentences for crimes committed against the security of the state. Of these, 40 were serving life sentences.

A total of 206 022 people were arrested by administration board officials and the SAP for pass-law offences in South Africa in 1982, which was a 28.3% increase over the 1981 figure of 160 000. Of the 1982 total, 93 376 were arrested by the SAP and 112 646 by the boards. The 1982 total amounted to the arrest of 564 people a day or 23 per hour, or one person every 2.5 minutes.

Altogether 1 805 publications (including a few 'objects') were submitted to publications committees. Of these just over half (949) were found to be undesirable under section 47 (2) of the Publications Act, while 46.7% (843) were found to be not undesirable. Thirteen were still under consideration.

The following amounts were allocated to welfare services in the 1983/84 budget:

	1983/4 (R)
Health and Welfare (white)	469 317 000
Internal Affairs (Indian)	71 429 000
Internal Affairs (coloured)	266 802 000
Co-operation and Development (Africans in certain areas*)	207 415 000

(*Africans in the 'white areas')

The following amounts were allocated to child welfare in the 1983/84 financial year:

	1983/84 (R)	1983/84 (R)
White	73 244 900	469 317 000
Indian	27 671 000	71 429 000
Coloured	86 182 200	266 802 000
Certain Africans	8 914 400	

The average per capita expenditure on Children's Act grants during 1982/83 was R532 for whites, R899 for Indians, R610 for coloured people, and R244 for Africans.

White crèches and day-care centres are subsidised by the Department of Health and Welfare at a rate of 80c a day per child and such centres for Indian and coloured children are subsidised by the Department of Internal Affairs at a rate of 50c a day per child. The government said that centres for African children were subsidised by the Department of Co-operation and Development at a rate of 7.5c a day per child.

The following amounts were allocated for the care of the aged in the 1983/84 budget (including old age and veterans' pensions):

	1983/84 (R)
White	317 972 300
Indian	22 085 500
Coloured	105 677 700
Certain Africans	132 167 100

The following amounts were allocated to welfare services for disabled people in the 1983/84 budget (excluding pensions):

	1983/84 (R)
White	7 158 000
Indian	99 800
Coloured	485 000
Certain Africans	801 200

The following amounts were allocated to social pensions in 1983/84:

	White (R)	Indian (R)	Coloured (R)	Certain African (R)
Old Age pensions	241 415 000	21 541 500	94 500 000	130 584 000
Veteran's pension	23 649 000	282 000	8 750 000	756 000
Blind persons' pensions	1 280 000	259 000	1 574 600	2 536 000
Disability pensions	44 926 600	16 778 000	63 000 000	56 269 000
Total	311 270 600	38 860 500	167 824 600	190 145 000

Britain

Britain's bloody battle

— part 2

BRITISH mineworkers continued with their battle this month to stop the closing down of all unprofitable mine pits. And it looks like it is still going to be a long and bitter fight.

More than 150 000 mineworkers have been on strike since March and more and more unions are coming out in support of them. In mid-July British dock workers went on a national strike.

Delegates at a meeting of the powerful Transport and General Workers' Union, whose members include dockers, backed the strike action on July 11.

By then the dock strike had already brought 78 ports to a standstill. But the TGWU went even further — it called out its 35 000 dockers on July 11.

They did so in protest against non-union labour being used to load iron-ore for a steel plant picketed by the mineworkers when its own members refused to handle it in support of the miners.

Britain's major ports — London, Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow and Hull — are registered under a national dock labour scheme which guarantees jobs for dockers.

These ports handle about 70% of Britain's imports and exports. Transport union leaders are determined to try to broaden the strike to 80 smaller ports not covered by the scheme.

The National Union of Seamen banned all freight lorries from British-crewed Sealink ships.

The union is unhappy about the Conservative Government's plans to return the State-owned ferry service to private ownership.

Leaders of the National Union of Railwaymen have ordered its 4 000 members working for ferries — mostly Sealink — not to cross picket lines.

Railway conductors in north-west England staged a 24-hour strike on July 13 to support the mineworkers. It badly disrupted

train services between London and the region.

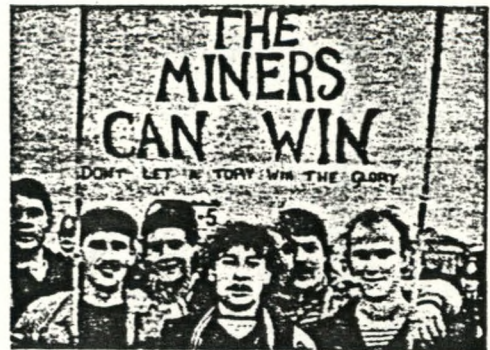
All inter-city trains between Manchester and Birmingham were halted.

Firemen in Manchester staged a slow-down this month, answering emergency calls only.

The General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union has also urged its 1 500 port workers to support the dockers.

The dock workers gained a victory on July 13 for their attempts to bring most of Britain's 204 ports to a standstill — Britain's last major port still working, Felixstowe, joined the dock strike.

The dockers' strike has become a second front of the mineworkers' struggle. This month a special delegate conference of the British



National Union of Mineworkers endorsed the miner's strike unanimously.

The strike has closed three-quarters of Britain's 176 State-owned mines. Two mineworkers have been killed and about 600 strikers and policemen injured in picket line clashes.

The strike was launched in protest against the State-run National Coal Board's plans to close 20 pits, which would mean 20 000 mineworkers would lose their jobs.

NUM and the coal board met again this month in an attempt to settle the dispute — but once again there was a breakdown in talks.

NUM president Arthur Scargill said the two sides had made considerable progress in a series of contacts — but that now the coal board's attitude seemed to have

hardened away from a deal.

He said there had been talks between the board's chairman, Ian MacGregor, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Scargill accused Thatcher of having 'a hand on the negotiating table'.

Edward Heath's Conservative Government was brought down by two miners' strikes in 1972 and 1974. Mineworkers feel Mad Maggie has never forgiven them for this.

But the mineworkers are not prepared to back down by another head-on clash with a Conservative Government. NUM refuses to compromise on the question of pit closures.

Their struggle is an inspiration to the struggle of workers throughout the world. It is a tribute to the courage of the working class.

West Germany

35-hour week a step closer—strike is called off

WEST Germany's metal workers went back to work at the beginning of this month after a 58-day strike — a step closer to their demand for a 35-hour week.

They agreed to accept a 38-and-a-half hour working week — which will start from April next year — as part of a gradual approach towards a 35-hour week.

More than 450 000 metal workers, led by their union IG Metall, downed tools in May in support of their demand. Their strike crippled the engineering industry in West Germany.

Besides edging closer to a 35-hour week, the workers will also be

given a pay increase of 3.3% (from July 1), plus another increase of 3.9% to make up for the loss of 90 minutes work time.

On top of this, they will also receive a further increase of 2% when the shorter hours contract comes into force — a major victory

not only for workers in West Germany, but also throughout Western Europe.

The demand for a 35-hour week may also soon feature high on the agenda of trade unions in other parts of the world, who watched the struggle of the German workers closely.

IG Metall's victory is significant — metal industry bosses initially refused to even budge by a single minute. The deal also means that IG Metall will now not have to negotiate a new wage agreement until April 1986.

The dispute centred on car component firms, halted automobile

production and made 450 000 workers idle through strikes, lock-outs and lay-offs.

It also had a wide-spread impact on European and South African car plants which depend on German parts.

The strikes also hit production in other sectors of the engineering industry and electrical appliance makers.

The compromise agreement ending the strike was reached by a special arbitration panel of union and employers' delegates.

VW was the first car manufacturer to return to production. They have fallen behind by

160 000 cars in forced shutdowns caused by a lack of parts from strike-bound suppliers.

Mercedes factories in the Stuttgart area reopened after losing 60 000 cars and 16 000 trucks.

BMW and Opel also restarted production when union members ratified the settlement.

IG Metall leader Ernst Eisenmann, said the deal was a 'decisive breakthrough' towards achieving a 35-hour week.

'Given the proposal on the table, it would have been unjustifiable to carry on with what was surely the toughest labour conflict since the Second World War,' he said.

Guatemala

Coca Cola workers have a smile after agreement with union

IZWILETHU gave an outline in its last issue of the struggle of workers in Guatemala in Central America against Coca Cola. The battle started in February when Coca Cola wanted to close a bottling plant.

Four hundred workers then decided to occupy the plant on February 18 in a desperate attempt to save their jobs. Coca Cola at first refused to speak to the workers' union, STEGAC.

The International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) then stepped in. But Coca Cola also refused to talk to the IUF.

However, this long and bitter battle of the workers of Guatemala has now ended in victory for the workers. It is an inspiration to

workers throughout the world. Here is the latest report on it:

At a meeting in San José, Costa Rica, on May 25 an agreement was reached on the future of the Coca Cola bottling plant in Guatemala City between the Coca Cola company, based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and the Guatemalan bottling plant workers' union, STEGAC, after intensive negotiations involving the International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF).

The union's members have been occupying the plant since the middle of February 1984 in protest against the closure of the plant.

The closure was in direct contravention of an agreement reached in 1980 between Coca Cola and IUF, after a bitter campaign for union recognition at the plant during which several union leaders were murdered.

In 1980, as in the present dispute, the IUF reacted by calling a worldwide boycott of Coca Cola products and by organising international solidarity actions by its affiliates and other trade unions.

The meeting on May 25 was attended by IUF executive commi-

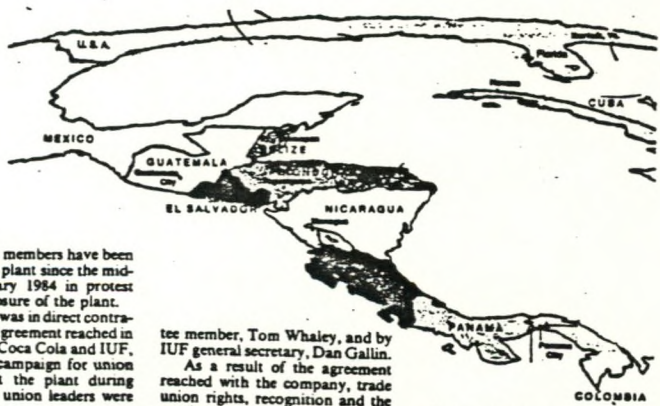
tee member, Tom Whaley, and by IUF general secretary, Dan Gallin.

As a result of the agreement reached with the company, trade union rights, recognition and the continuation of the union's collective agreement will all be guaranteed when new owners — currently being sought by Coca Cola — take over the plant.

In the meantime, the workers will remain in occupation of the plant. The job security of the existing workforce during the period

until new owners are found has also been guaranteed by Coca Cola.

As a result of the signing of this agreement, the IUF has agreed to lift, with immediate effect, its worldwide boycott of Coca Cola, which was started in April this year.



The struggle continues!



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