The next MACSA meeting will be on Sunday, September 18, Pres House, 731 State Street.

macsa news

What Arms Embargo?

South African Airforce Mirage Jets

Photo credit—Southern Africa

See article on page 3

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ENCLOSED IS A DONATION TO HELP MACSA IN ITS WORK.
MACSA is pleased to announce that David Clarenbach of the Wisconsin State Legislature is in the process of drafting a bill similar in intent to that which passed in the Madison City Council as well as the Dane County Board of Supervisors. This bill will deal with the question of the State of Wisconsin doing business with corporations which have no business or financial connection with the fascist gov't of South Africa. As soon as more details become available we will let out readers know. This measure will require strong public support on a state-wide basis as the American public is being bamboozled by the games being played by the Carter Administration.

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ANDREW YOUNG--CAIMING WHITE FEARS

From the magazine SOUTHERN AFRICA, June/July, 1977, we quote the following:

"UN Ambassador Andrew Young carried the new Carter Policies to both the UN-sponsored conference in Maputo, May 16-21 and to South Africa on May 21 and 22.

In Johannesburg he addressed a group of South African Businessmen at the invitation of Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of the giant Anglo-American Corporation. Speaking to the businessmen he ardently proclaimed the reforming powers of capitalism, asserting that 'capitalism has the power to tame white fears of one man one vote.' He said that if Blacks were given a bigger economic stake it would not be long before enough Blacks would vote to retain the system." (!) "And he suggested that some African Marxist states would turn to capitalism 'because it works best.'

In commenting on these remarks the Rand Daily Mail noted that Young was even more optimistic about the future of South Africa than most of the businessmen.

Young met with the current president of the Soweto Students Representative Council, Sechaba Montsitsi, and another member of the council at the home of Oppenheimer. He said he was moved by the meeting and that the Council was pursuing change 'in a non-violent, religious context... I can only say God bless them.' ...

The only Bantustan leader invited was Chief Gatsha Buthelezi (a puppet--ed), currently trying to establish his credibility as sufficiently militant for the black community and sufficiently moderate for whites...

At the meeting Young urged black South Africans to use economic boycotts to press for change. Like his prescription for Zimbabwe, this ignores fifty years of non-violent black struggle and protest before the Sharpeville massacre. Young did admit that 'it would be quite hypocritical if the US, which had to take up arms to get its freedom from Britain, was to go around advising people against it.' But the theme he continually pushed was non-violent boycott...

The American embassy made two attempts to persuade representatives of the Black Peoples Convention (BPC) to attend the meeting, but was rebuffed. The BPC issued a statement prior to Young's visit saying that they would not meet with Young until he met with South Africa's 'true Black leaders... Our leaders are all either in jail, banned, or outside South Africa--people like Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki and Sobukwe. If Black leaders are to be consulted, then it must be these people.'

A footnote to Young's southern Africa trip, dedicated to promoting a 'new' U.S. policy, is the refusal in April of Steve Biko, banned honorary president of the BPC, to accept a State Department offer to visit the US because, according to BPC leaders, although the US claimed to have changed its attitude to South Africa, it had not yet demonstrated this change." (This article was taken from SOUTHERN AFRICA, June/July, 1977. Subscriptions are $8 per year. Address: Southern Africa Committee, 156 Fifth Avenue, Room 707, New York, N.Y. 10010. -- This publication relies on its readers for financial support. It gets no money from advertising. Please help!!)
U.S. arming South Africa

"The United States has been secretly shipping arms to South Africa for years in violation of the UN arms embargo. This charge was made by Sean Gervasi, U.S. specialist on South Africa, in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Africa last month but has been covered up so far by the committee and the media."

This article in the Daily World of August 3 (also see Africa News for July 25) is further proof that the United States is continuing to support the fascist gov't of South Africa and has no intentions of allowing the African people to rule themselves. Protecting US investments comes first. (See also Southern Africa, 8/77)

The article continues: "Gervasi documented his charge that the U.S. has helped South Africa to build itself into a major military power with details on the type and amounts of military equipment provided, when delivered and where it was purchased.

"He said that the U.S. had used the subterfuge of licensing foreign firms to produce U.S. arms. He also said that Great Britain, France and Italy had sold arms to S. Africa.

"Gervasi is an American economist who has served as assistant to Sean McBride, U.N. commissioner for Namibia and is currently a research associate at State University of New York at Binghamton. He presented the evidence to the Subcommittee on July 14.

"The arms embargo called for by the United Nations in 1963 'is in practical fact non-existent,' Gervasi told the Subcommittee. 'By all accounts there has been a thriving international trade in arms for South Africa for nearly a decade.'

"Some purchases, especially from France, have been made openly. But vast amounts have been sold secretly to the racist regime, allowing Pretoria to stockpile a 'secret arsenal' in Gervasi's words, much of which is of U.S. origin... Little has been known until now about these sales, he said, 'for the simple reason that they have been kept secret.' South Africa is expected to import some $1.2 billion in arms in 1977, he said.

"If the U.S. is hiding the fact that it is militarily collaborating with the apartheid regime, this raises the possibility that there are other areas of policy towards southern Africa about which we have been told very little.'"

68 nations at UN parley to fight apartheid

On Monday, August 22, the World Conference on Action Against Apartheid opened in Lagos, Nigeria. This conference was sponsored by the United Nations and had representatives from 68 UN member-states, as well as liberation groups from Southern Africa, and many international groups (Israel boycotted the conference).

A total world military-economic boycott was called for by Premier Odvar Nordli of Norway. Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock of Australia warned that if racist South Africa refuses to permit rule by the majority in South Africa, then "scores of thousands of people would die, and most of them would be innocent... No people can be expected to bear indefinitely the oppression and indignity of apartheid."

U.S. delegate Andrew Young denounced armed struggle and told journalists that the US will never give military aid to any liberation movement in southern Africa. He said of the free African states that "they have got to cooperate with the West, because we just do things better than anyone else."
Elijah Loza, aged 59, died in a hospital in police custody in Cape Town, Aug. 2. He had been detained under the Terrorism Act on May 27th and severely assaulted and tortured as a result of which he was taken to the hospital in a coma.

He was a bakery worker, a migratory laborer, travelling from his place of work in Cape Town back to his home town of Alice, Ciskei, each year. He worked for one firm--Bowman's--for many years, doing skilled work, but not being paid as a skilled worker. He began organizing the African workers in the knowledge of his own exploitation. When the employers discovered he was organizing the workers, he was called to the office and promised higher wages if he would stop his activities. Typical of Loza, he refused to cooperate and told the bosses that he was thinking of the workers, not of himself. He was not the only one doing skilled work and being underpaid.

He was sacked. Some Africans in South Africa, after they have worked for one firm for longer than 10 years and earn a certain category of pay, are entitled to unemployment pay. Loza applied for this pay and was immediately intimidated with the threat that he would be deported from Cape Town and sent to his "homeland," the Ciskei. There were many other battles confronting him. In his reference book (pass book) he was categorized as an "agitator" and could not get new employment. After many months he eventually succeeded in finding a new job, only to lose it again when he once more started organizing the workers.

It was obvious that he would not succeed in finding work in a factory, and he therefore became a full-time SACTU worker. At that time SACTU had a general workers' union--they wanted to organize the unorganized workers--and Loza took charge of this section which covered the whole of the Cape Peninsula. Under him there were African Municipal Workers Union, Bakery Workers, Commercial and Distributive Workers Union, Dock Workers and many others.

During all this time the police were harassing him as they did all trade unionists. The struggle of the organization of African workers is inseparably bound up with the struggle of the liberation movement in South Africa. Moreover, SACTU organizes all workers, not just African workers, and this was bound to bring all SACTU organizers in direct conflict with government policies.

Many African leaders of the Western Cape were jailed, banned or went into exile, and more and more of the brunt of the work fell on Loza. They tried to jail him, but he was acquitted. They banned and house arrested him but in spite of that he continued with his work.

He was one of the first to be detained under the 90-day detention law when he was detained for many months. He was tortured at this stage. One of his fellow detainees, Looksmart Ngudle, was murdered in detention.

Loza's latest detention resulted in his death.

We call upon the trade union movement of Britain and the United States and elsewhere to protest this inhuman torture and murder of a trade unionist. Please send all protests to J.B. Vorster, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa. Also please send a copy to the SACTU office: John Gaetswe, General Secretary, SACTU, 49 Rathbone St., London, W1A 4NL, England.
WORKERS' UNITY

In the June issue of our Newsletter we announced the receipt of a new trade union publication from South Africa, WORKERS' UNITY, organ of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. For a subscription please write: SACTU, 49 Rathbone St., London, W1A 4NL, England. Please send donation. We continue with part two.

The militant strike action of the African workers after the Soweto massacres last year caused great fear among factory owners, bankers, the government--indeed the whole ruling class. They can see the growing power of the working class--that African workers will not be stopped by shootings and torture and arrests. They know now that it is impossible to hold down the mass of the working people of South Africa for ever by means of the gun alone.

THE FIGHT OF THE AFRICAN WORKERS FOR INDEPENDENT UNIONS

The South African government in its attempt to weaken and divide the African workers is allowing dual or "parallel" unions to be set up in an effort to split the independent unions (This bears a great similarity to the CIA-funded dual unions that were set up in South America in an effort to smash the militant unions there).

This "parallel" union is known as TUCSA (Trade Union Council of South Africa), is government sponsored and is dominated within by white, skilled labor--labor which has traditionally had a privileged position in the work force. But with industrialization eliminating a portion of the skills, these workers are now finding their jobs in jeopardy. They are beginning to recognize that the starvation wages of African workers--along with a vast pool of unemployed--is having a depressing effect on their own wages! Thus their interest in allowing African workers to be organized under "responsible" leadership.

Of course this touching concern for the exploitation of African workers sprang entirely from self-interest and was in no sense a genuine commitment to working-class solidarity. This has left the skilled workers with the impossible task of organizing the African workers against the bosses while still controlling them and keeping them down! Only a powerful, independent and non-racial trade union movement can defend the rights and true interests of all South Africa's workers together.

SACTU REPRESENTS 22 YEARS OF STRUGGLE

Twenty-two years ago, on the 5th of March, 1955, the South African Congress of Trade Unions was formed.

The Old Trades and Labor Council had broken up in 1954, the majority of its member unions resolving to form an entirely new body which would exclude African Trade unions from membership. For this purpose TUCSA (Trade Union Council of South Africa) was soon brought into being.

At the final conference of the Trades and Labor Council, fourteen unions (white, mixed and African) fought with all the resources at their command against this proposal to divide the labor movement. They stated their position as follows:

"Only a strong trade union movement can fulfill its task of defending and advancing the workers' interests. Only a united trade union movement can be strong. The interests of the African workers are in the long run no different from the interests of the Colored, European and Indian workers. It is to the advantage of the employers and their government to divide the workers. Division is a policy directed by the bosses and not in the workers' interests. Events will convince the workers in this country as in other countries that their salvation lies in unity and it is our duty to bring the knowledge home to our fellow-workers. We are determined to carry on a struggle against the policy of racial discrimination and to work for the achievement of a single trade union organization embracing all sections of the working class."


American Steel Workers Against Apartheid

For the first time in the United States a local union, the United Steel Workers of America Local 1101, has made as one of its contract demands that the Youngstown Sheet and Tube in East Chicago "not use or purchase products produced under non-union conditions in Southern Africa, including but not limited to chrome from Rhodesia and coal and coke from the Republic of South Africa." The Union further demanded that a monitoring system be provided to assure the Union of Company compliance.

The Union position according to Local 1101 President Norman Purdue, "is based both on the defense of our members' jobs which are threatened by the use of 'Slave Labor Coke' and also as a move in solidarity with the demand of Black African workers for union representation and majority rule. Liberation forces in South Africa have called for a ban on goods from the white-ruled regime."


These actions are concrete ways that people are expressing their opposition to the racist South African government. Local 1011 has taken an historic step of solidarity with Africa. Now it is up to the company to honor the demand or face the possibility of being shut down. (This news story was excerpted from AFRICAN AGENDA, P.O. Box 1941, Chicago, Ill 60690. Subscriptions are $2.00 per year)

PROTESTS

On July 19, students, faculty and representatives of community and religious organizations blasted the University of Illinois for continued support of the racist South African Vorster regime at a hearing conducted by the University's Board of Trustees. The University has investments in multi-national corporations with operations in South Africa, and large deposits in banks--such as the First National Bank of Chicago and Continental Illinois--which make huge loans to South Africa.

Many American corporations with South African connections are attempting to justify their investments by claiming that they are working to "liberalize" South Africa. But, as one of the speakers pointed out, these are the same corporations who are guilty of the worst kind of racial discrimination right here at home. (Daily World 7/26)

AND MORE PROTESTS

In a week of action against apartheid by the world labor movement, workers in many countries showed their solidarity with the struggle of the workers in South Africa. The week of January 17 to 22 was undertaken by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade unions, the World Confederation of Labor and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity. Together these organizations represent a massive 200 million workers world-wide.

In Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Belgium and Holland, dock workers imposed bans on the handling of South African goods and ships. In France postal workers introduced a ban on mail and phone calls to South Africa, while in Britain a similar ban was stopped by the courts (the case is being appealed by the postal workers unions). In Norway trade unionists have started a permanent ban on the importing of South African wine.
MACSA would like to inform its readers of AFRICA NEWS, a weekly, 12-page newsletter that brings us information from all areas of the African continent. You may subscribe by writing AFRICA NEWS, P.O. Box 3851, Durham, N.C. 27702. Subscription rates are: one month trial, $5.00; Individuals, $28/yr; Organizations, $48/yr.

Among the many items carried by AFRICA NEWS is the following from August 15, 1977:

"CIA's South African Ties: The State Department says no South African Agents are being trained in the United States, but it has denied a Freedom of Information request for full disclosure of U.S.-South African intelligence links.

The statement was issued last week in response to an article in the Johannesburg Sunday Times, which said South African agents are working and training here. The paper said the information was supplied by Alexander Van Wyk, Deputy head of the Bureau of State Security (BOSS), South Africa's mammoth intelligence agency.

A New York-based church organization, the Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa (ECSA), has asked the State Department, the CIA, the Treasury, the Defense Department and the White House for copies of all documents on cooperation with South African intelligence agencies. So far only the State Dep't has replied, saying the request is not sufficiently specific and may not qualify under the Freedom of Information Act. ECSA Pres. Bill Johnson says he will press his request. In a letter to the State Department on August 8, he argues, 'Our request of July 30 is very specific and sharply defined.'"

Again we wish to remind our readers of the many fine pamphlets available on South Africa. Most of the following are printed by the International Defense and Aid Fund, and are available from the NATIONAL ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN LIBERATION. Write: NAIMSAL, 1 Union Sq. West, Room 203, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Bernstein, Hilda. For Their Triumphs and for their Tears--Women in Apartheid S. Africa.

Vigne, Randolph. A Dwelling Place of our Own: The Story of the Namibian Nation.


Spotlight on Soweto.

First, Ruth. Portugal's Wars in Africa.

Ainslie, Rosalynde. Masters and Serfs: Farm Labour in South Africa.

Sprack, John. Rhodesia: South Africa's Sixth Province.

Rogers, Barbara. Divide and Rule; South Africa's Bantustans.


SACTU. Workers in Chains.
The thesis of this book is that there is no improvement in the ghettos of South Africa and no progress until the whole apartheid system is removed. The method used by the author is to describe current conditions in Soweto and to indicate the historical factors that have created these conditions. The author draws mainly upon the history of her own family throughout the last 30 or 40 years as well as upon her particular journalistic experience as a Black reporter in her native South Africa.

Ms. Sikakane paints a picture for us of everyday life in Soweto which is missing from most of the newspaper accounts which Americans read. Many of her descriptions remind us of the American ghetto descriptions during the '60's—inefficient nutrition and health conditions, discriminatory labor conditions and the destruction of family life by conscious policy. It is not hard to understand the response to such conditions—growing Black consciousness expressing itself in both explosions and in well-organized overground and underground movements. The results sometimes lead to experiences of detention and prison and to exile as they have for the author.

This book is well worth reading because it complements such a film as "Last Grave At Dimbaza" which focuses on conditions in rural Bantustans by focussing on life for Africans in a satellite city slum.