

FACT SHEET ON THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST RHODESIAN CARGO

We received word of the incoming ship May 30 from the American Committee on Africa. The Ship was the African Meteor owned by Farrell Lines. The purchaser was Phillips Brothers, a division of Engelhardt. Engelhardt has its hads in almost all big corporate interests in southern Africa.

The ship was carrying 1,500,000 lbs. of chrome (ferro-chrome with a high carbon content) and 398 tons of nickel in the form of electrolyte cathodes.

A press conference was called by ^{congressman} Parrin Mitchell for June 6. Present were Parrin Mitchell, a representative of the African Liberation Support Committee, a representative of the Baltimore Revolutionary Workers' Organization, and a statement from Hershey Richardson, an official of the International Longshoremens' Assn. Local 333, was delivered.

It was decided that the demonstration be national in form (all black) with leadership from ALSC. On June 9th there was a rally after which some of the demonstrators went down to the Cottman Ore Pier at the Canton Port Authority where the African Meteor was docked. There they found it in the process of being unloaded and they set up a picket line. The workers came off their job after having unloaded about 1/6 of the chrome. The picket line was closely surveyed by about 10 cops. Later that night the ship was moved across the harbor to pier #3 at Locust Point.

On Monday June 11 a multinational picket line was set up at Locust Point. However workers crossed it and unloaded the shipload of processed nickel and other goods except for the chrome ore. Participating on the picket line were workers from various Baltimore plants, African Liberation Support Committee, Baltimore Revolutionary Workers' Organization, The October League (M-L), Revolutionary Union, members from the paper On The Line and the Maryland-D.C. Center for United Labor Action.

The workers said they were willing to walk ~~xx~~ off if they had some leadership such as a shop steward. Such leadership was not forthcoming.

Baltimore Revolutionary
Workers' Organization