

# OVERCOMING THE LEGACY OF APARTHEID

Supporting Grassroots Empowerment For  
Reconstruction In The New South Africa

## A WORKSHOP FOR ACTIVISTS

WITH

**CONNIE SEPTEMBER**

Vice President, Congress of South African Trade Unions

**LECHESA TSENOLI**

President, South African National Civic Organization

**HEIN MARAIS**

Editor, *Work In Progress* Magazine

**TIME:** Saturday December 3 -- 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Schedule

Plenary : 11 - 12 :30 PM

Workshops: 1:30 - 3 PM

**PLACE:** Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union  
15 Union Square West (4,5,6, N,R Trains to Union Square)

Sponsored By The American Committee On Africa  
(212) 962-1210

Co-Sponsored By The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union

Endorsers: Coalition For Democracy in South Africa; New York Committee For African Labor Solidarity, Patrice Lumumba Coalition

## **SPEAKERS**

**CONNIE SEPTEMBER** is First Vice President of the South African labor federation COSATU, representing over 1.2 million Black workers. A longtime trade unionist and anti-apartheid activist, she rose through the ranks of the textile workers union to become vice president of the South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union before being elected to the COSATU leadership in 1993. COSATU is formally allied to the ANC and has many senior former leaders serving in the Mandela government. She is the highest ranking woman labor leader in South Africa.

**LECHESA TSENOLI** is President of the South African National Civic Organization (SANCO) a national organization of over 2000 impoverished Black communities in the formerly apartheid Republic. The civics spearheaded township resistance to apartheid in the 1980s, and continues to play a leading role in community development and empowerment. While SANCO supported the ANC in last April's elections it is affiliated to no single political party.

**HEIN MARAIS** is a progressive journalist who edited the highly regarded political magazine *Work in Progress* until it ceased publication earlier this year. In a country notorious for censorship, the alternative press played a particularly important role in exposing human rights abuses and covering the mass resistance to apartheid.

## **WORKSHOP GOALS**

Trade unions and civics mobilized millions of South Africans to participate in mass resistance to racist rule. With their traditions of democratic decisionmaking and grassroots accountability they are central to efforts to win public support for, and participation in, the Mandela-led coalition government's Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) which is aimed at eradicating the poverty, homelessness and entrenched racism that is the legacy of apartheid. But for the next five years the ANC and the former whites-only National Party co-govern in a power-sharing national unity constitution. White economic and social privilege continues, and both the unions and the civics have challenged government policies that fail to narrow the gulf between white wealth and power and Black misery.

At this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to learn about both the obstacles to and the opportunities for fundamental change in South Africa, and to interact with key leaders of the mass democratic movement in developing new forms of grassroots solidarity. The election of conservative majorities in the U.S. Congress lends new urgency to grassroots action in support of democracy and development in South and southern Africa.

During the morning session speakers will describe political and social developments in "the new South Africa" and define the tasks and the struggles still ahead. The afternoon will give participants time to break down into smaller groups for focused discussion and dialogue with the South African presenters.

There is no registration fee or admission charge. While coffee and tea will be available, participants will be responsible for lunch.