



# NEWS BULLETIN

Canadians Concerned about Southern Africa  
Box 545, Adelaide Street Station

Toronto, Ontario  
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DECEMBER 1985

Vol: 9 No: 5

## Unionists form federation

Ten thousand South African trade unionist gathered in Durban to form a new labour federation in early december, the largest such organization to appear in recent history. Its appearance clearly marks a new stage in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Calling for the end of pass book laws, the nationalization of industries, along with international sanctions against apartheid, newly elected president of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) Elijah Barayi struck a militant chord during the gathering.

"We are not going to be passive. We have been passive (as trade unions) for quite a number of years. But now we feel we have to be seen to be taking an active part, politically, culturally and socially."

The non-racial COSATU has 34 affiliates, a paid-up membership of 450,000 and 565,000 signed-up members.

COSATU has threatened to call a national strike if the government carries out its threat to repatriate foreign migrant workers to neighboring states. It has pledged to organize in the bantustans where currently laws restrict such actions.

In a statement received in Toronto on December 13, the President of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), Steven Dlamini stated "Our revolution requires a united and strong trade union movement determined to satisfy its demand for higher wages, good working conditions, removal of colour bars, equal opportunities to work and the achievement of complete emancipation. COSATU can and will fulfil these aims."



Dlamini presented a program around which the South African trade unions should unite, including the organization of all workers into industrial unions, one for each industry and occupation; campaigning for increased wages, better working conditions and improved health and safety; developing the campaign against the racist pass laws and all forms of discrimination; demanding equal work opportunities; removal of discriminatory labour laws and all apartheid measures; and the demand for the right to vote in a united, undivided South Africa.

The SACTU statement concluded, "The federation, in unison with the national liberation movement and its allies is called upon to perform its historic task by calling on its members and the organized workers to participate fully in the struggle for liberation; social justice and equality."

Messages of support and solidarity with COSATU can be forwarded to: 2 Goodhope St., Belleville South, Cape 7530, SOUTH AFRICA.

## CAMPUS WORKSHOP HELD

The Campus Anti-Apartheid Action Workshop was held on November 9 at the University of Toronto. The more than thirty participants spent a day in lively debate at workshops on a variety of topics, including divestment, boycotts, sanctions, material aid and political prisoners campaigns.

The main purpose of the workshop was to bring various campuses together to share experiences and plan for new actions. The opening session was addressed by Peter Bunting of the African National Congress and Cathy Laurier from the University of Toronto Divestment Committee.

The participants agreed to make March 21, Sharpeville Day, a day of campus action, and also supported the idea of a week of action to be held on campuses during the winter semester, at a date suitable for each institution. A statement supported by all participants was sent to Prime Minister Mulroney calling on him to impose total mandatory sanctions against South Africa, and to President P.W. Botha condemning recent repressive actions in South Africa.

The summary report with suggestions for campus actions that came out of the Workshop is available from CCSA for \$1 to cover printing and mailing costs.

### WE HATE TO ASK, BUT...

Does it seem that we are always asking you to pay for material prepared by CCSA? We wish it could be otherwise, but unfortunately CCSA is totally supported by donations from affiliates and friends. We would like to be able to provide all our material free of charge, but with printing and mailing costs as high as they are, we would quickly deplete our entire credit union account. We therefore try to produce all our materials on a cost recovery basis, so that we can continue to carry out our important work. Please bear with us!

### CCSA POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Initiated this fall, CCSA has already distributed close to 8,000 postcards calling for the release of Nelson Mandela and all South African and Namibian political prisoners. The cards are addressed to President P.W. Botha in South Africa. Cards can still be ordered from CCSA at the cost of \$5 per hundred.

### WHAT'S IN A WORD?

The media have been full of news on South Africa in the last few months, almost on a daily basis. While this has done much to raise Canadian awareness about the situation in South Africa, many of us are concerned about the way the media are depicting that struggle.

The word "riot" is consistently used to describe any actions of the black population in South Africa. This is sometimes accompanied by the word "rampage" (as in, "Rioting blacks rampaged through the streets of Johannesburg today..."). In fact, it would be hard to find a news story about South Africa which doesn't use the word "riot".

What is a "riot"? According to the Random House Dictionary, a riot is "violent wild disorder or confusion". The repeated use of this term subtly distorts reality by making it appear that the violence in South Africa is being initiated by the civilian population, with the "riot" police and army simply attempting to restore order.

The term "riot" does not connote organization, structure or purpose. Not only does this mask the real level of organized struggle inside South Africa, but more insidiously, it reinforces the commonly held, if racist, impression that the blacks of South Africa are not capable of running a government or being part of a democratic process. It leads to the commonly heard argument that if one person/one vote were to come to South Africa there would be widespread violence and bloodshed "just like in the rest of Africa". The term "riot" is, of course, consistently used by the South African regime.

What can we as Canadians do in response to this problem? Firstly, we should write letters of protest to newspapers, magazines, TV or radio stations that regularly employ such language. Secondly, we should raise the issue of how the media distorts reality in every possible forum, as well as with friends and family. Lastly, of course, we should avoid using such biased terminology when we are describing the actions of those in South Africa who are opposing apartheid -- a protest, a demonstration, an uprising, a struggle, but let's avoid the use of the word "riot"!

### CCSA (TORONTO) PICKET

In spite of a torrential rainstorm, CCSA (Toronto) held a successful information picket in front of two grocery stores on November 18. The winner of the G. Weston Lackey of the Month Award goes to the manager of the Loblaw's store at 555 Sherbourne St. who called police to move three picketers who were standing under the store's overhang to keep out of the rain. Indicating no bias on his part, the police officer pointed out that the overhang was private property, but picketers were welcome to stand out on the sidewalk [in the pouring rain] all day if they wished.

### BRIEF TO SENATE COMMITTEE

CCSA has just completed its brief to the Senate Special Committee on Canada's International Relations. Entitled, "Canada's Relation to Apartheid South Africa: The Case for Comprehensive Mandatory Sanctions", the brief examines the link between Nazism and apartheid, as well as arguments regarding the imposition of total sanctions against South Africa. Twelve pages in length, the Brief is available from CCSA for \$1.

### GUELPH PICKET

Close to 20 people marched for two hours recently in front of a Zehr's store in Guelph, Ontario. The event was sponsored by the Southern Africa Interest Group. Picketers got a good response from passersby who honked car horns and yelled in support. The event also received good newspaper and T.V. coverage. S.A.I.G. members were pleased to note that while they found South African products for sale in that store on the week before the picket, there have been no South African products on their shelves since that time.

### CCSA PETITION ON SANCTIONS

Signatures for our CCSA petition calling on the government to immediately impose total mandatory sanctions continue to arrive. Close to 5000 names have now been forwarded to Prime Minister Mulroney. Over 700 signatures for a similar petition were recently sent to the Prime Minister by the Anti-Apartheid Coalition of Toronto. Groups and

individuals should keep collecting names until such time as our government actually imposes such sanctions. Petitions are available from CCSA.

### UMNTU NGUMTU NGABANTU

David Mesenbring, a missionary with the Lutheran World Federation in New York, gave an enlightening talk at the CCSA (Toronto) AGM on November 5. Mesenbring was finishing up a 22 day tour of Canada.

"Black on black violence is only a very small slice of the violence which occurs", he told CCSA members. Such images of violence which reach the outside world ignore the much more prevalent forms of state-sponsored or state-perpetrated violence, or ignore its true nature as counter-violence. In the townships, there is much indiscriminate killing of blacks by the South African security forces.

Repression has become particularly severe. To illustrate this fact, Mesenbring related one incident where police fired tear gas into cells built to hold 40 to 50 detainees in the most crowded conditions. People died in the cells and police refused to remove the bodies. According to Mesenbring, over 5000 people were detained in the previous month.

The highlight of the evening was an 18-minute videotaped excerpt of a clandestine interview Mesenbring held last summer with Winnie Mandela. In this inspiring interview, Mandela speaks at length of the abusive treatment she received in prison during her 18 month confinement in 1969-70, including 7 days of continuous torture and interrogation. She explains that it was after this period that she became committed to the path of armed struggle.

Mesenbring ended the evening with the words "umntu nguntu ngabantu" which is a Xhosa proverb meaning literally person, person, people. It means that people are what make us human. To the Xhosa-speaking peoples of South Africa it expresses the very high ideal of sharing and community that is central to their culture. To Mesenbring, it illustrates the need to appreciate Africa for its human resources ahead of our traditional concern for its physical resources. In this sense, concluded Mesenbring, Africa has much to teach all of us.

## CCSA MEETS WITH SWAPO LEADERS

"We are prepared to suffer still more and even lose our lives for our freedom and dignity."  
-Toivo ja Toivo

Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, General-Secretary of the South West Africa Peoples Organization took time to meet with members of the CCSA executive on October 10 while on a visit to Toronto. He was accompanied by Hdipo Hamutenya, Information Director for SWAPO.

Toivo ja Toivo urged CCSA to continue to campaign for comprehensive sanctions and divestment but made a special request for material aid. Particularly important at this time are medicine and agricultural equipment. This will help SWAPO in its drive for greater self-sufficiency. Also urgently needed is clothing for school children, and when SWAPO opens a new school in Congo-Brazzaville next year, they will require quantities of school materials.

## YORK UNIVERSITY EVENT

York Student Movement Against Apartheid held its most successful event yet on November 20. A film about Nelson Mandela was followed by a number of presentations. Joanne Naiman of CCSA spoke on the topic of "Apartheid - modern day Nazism", Ava Szczurko of the U of T Divestment Committee spoke about recent events at her campus, and Yusef Saloojee provided an update on current events inside South Africa. A lively discussion followed.

## FARRELL DEFENSE COMMITTEE FORMED

During the recent debate at the University of Toronto (see the article in this News Bulletin), Lennox Farrell, a high school teacher who is active in a variety of community organizations, was charged with assault for throwing a ceremonial mace at the South African ambassador. A support committee has now been set up to help defend Farrell and to call into question the rights of the apartheid regime in Canada. Donations may be sent to the Lennox Farrell Anti-Apartheid Defense Committee, 688 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, Ontario, M6C 1B1.

## YOUTH AGAINST APARTHEID

As a result of the conference for high school students held last February, a number of students formed their own organization in Toronto, now known as Youth Against Apartheid. The committee recently prepared its own pamphlet, and has sent a letter of introduction to schools in the Toronto area.

As a result of these letters, committee members have to date made five presentations on apartheid to classes in Toronto high schools, and more are planned for January. The presentation consists of a film, an oral report, and a discussion with students. Members report a high degree of success in reaching out on a "student to student" basis.

For more information on Youth Against Apartheid, contact Greg at 533-7175, Deryck at 297-6572, Wayne at 769-7292, or write W. Yee, 665 Windemere Ave., Toronto M5S 3M2.

# McGill University decides on program of divestment

McGill University has become the first university in Canada to adopt a policy that will lead to total divestment of its South Africa-linked holdings.

Twenty-one of McGill's 34 board of governors members made the decision yesterday. The move was initiated by students through the university's committee on social responsibility.

The decision will affect an estimated \$45-million in securities, stocks and bonds held by McGill in companies that are South African-owned or -controlled.

The board also voted to review the issue each October in light of possible changes in South Africa's situation.

The landmark decision by McGill follows a series of divestment

moves by universities in the United States. Sixty-three U.S. universities have divested themselves of their South Africa-linked interests affecting about half a billion dollars worth of investments.

About 600 McGill students chanted outside the university's administration building at dusk yesterday

as the arguments for and against divestment were discussed by the governors.

They shouted, "Divest now, Free Mandela, Jail Botha."

McGill's decision comes in the wake of increased pressure from Montreal students. Last week, about 400 Concordia University students staged a protest march.

In 1982, McGill University made its first divestment decision, selling its shares of Mobil Oil Inc. and Dutch Shell Inc., companies that were supplying petroleum products to the South African military.

**MOTORCYCLING EVENT CANCELLED**

The International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) has decided to suspend next year's South African motorcycling and motocross grands prix and to bar South African riders from other FIM championships. The South African 250cc and 500cc road race grands prix were due to be held at the Kyalami circuit next March. South Africa was also scheduled to host a FIM motocross grand prix.

**ROTTERDAM BAN**

Rotterdam, the world's busiest port is about to impose a total ban on the shipment of oil to South Africa. Local authorities have drafted a letter to the Dutch Foreign Minister, Mr. H. van den Broek, informing him of the action. The action stemmed from a recent report by a Dutch anti-apartheid group about ship movements to and from South Africa.

**S.A. JEWISH COMMUNITY REJECTS APARTHEID**

In a resolution adopted after a three-day debate at its biannual National Assembly, held in Johannesburg in June, 1985, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, which represents South Africa's 120,000 Jews, endorse the "removal of all provisions in the laws of South Africa which discriminate on grounds of color and race." The resolution also "rejects apartheid".

The Board of Deputies adopted the resolution in response to a request from the World Jewish Congress which asked its affiliates in 70 countries to join in the worldwide campaign against racism and apartheid.

**DANISH UNIONS START BOYCOTT**

The Danish Trade Union Federation recently began a boycott of trade with South Africa to protest Pretoria's policies. The boycott, which started on Nov. 18 and ends on Jan. 31, covers workers in transport, docking and other sectors.

The boycott, timed to run until pending Danish legislation bans all trade with South Africa, will mainly affect coal supplies, which account for over 90% of imports from that country. Other goods affected are fruit, vegetables and fertilizers, along with exports to South Africa of Danish farm machinery, chemicals and drugs.

(Toronto Star, 11/18/85)

**BRITISH RETAILER TAKES ACTION**

Sainsbury's, Britain's largest food retailer, has ordered its buyers to look for alternative sources of goods to those traditionally purchased from South Africa. The supermarket chain has come under pressure from customers calling for South African products -- mostly fruit -- to be removed from the shelves. For the moment, shoppers will be allowed to make their own "political choice" when buying fruit.

Sainsbury's says the time may come when South African products will be banned. If sales of that country's goods show a significant decline once alternatives are available, then the stocking will be reviewed. "This means the long-term future of South African produce lies very much in the hands of the customer", the marketing director said. (Sunday Times, 10/20/85)



**NO S.A. GOODS IN COMMONS DINERS**

Fruit, vegetables and other foods imported from South Africa will no longer be available in cafeterias and restaurants operated by the House of Commons in Ottawa.

**ENTERTAINERS OFF BLACKLIST**

British rock star Elton John, blacklisted by the United Nations for performing in South Africa, has denounced that country's apartheid system of racial separatism and pledged not to return.

As a result of his statement, John's name is being removed from the U.N. register of blacklisted artists. Other artists whose names have been removed from the list this year include Chick Corea, Cliff Richard, Julio Iglesias, Barry Manilow, and the group Chicago.

# S. African churchmen threaten violence

By Jimmy Atkins Toronto Star

More than 150 of South Africa's leading church figures have warned the government they will encourage confrontation with the state within months unless immediate steps are taken to scrap apartheid.

In a recently released document endorsed by the head of the 13 million-strong South African Council of Churches — the largest such group in the country — the Pretoria regime is described as "morally illegitimate" and the "enemy of the people."

Advocating a liberation theology hitherto unheard of in South Africa, the document urges churches to participate in the fight against apartheid and to become involved in civil disobedience and other protest campaigns.

The document, entitled "Challenge to the Church: A Theological Comment on the Political Crisis in South Africa," reflects the growing mood of militancy in the country's religious circles.

One of the signatories to the document is Dr. Beyers Naude, head of the Council of Churches and a longtime anti-apartheid campaigner.

While in Toronto several days ago, Naude revealed the extent to which the church has become radicalized over the violence that has claimed more than 800 lives in South Africa during the past 14 months.

"We've always been against violence by the government and its opposition. But it is simply unrealistic to tell people to remain peaceful in the face of the violence coming from the state," Naude said.

## Another challenge

"How can we justify calling on the victims of such oppression to take it lying down? The major question facing the church today is not violence but choosing between greater and lesser violence."

The theological critique — called the Kairos, or crisis, document — represents another challenge to the government of President Pieter Botha, already besieged by unrelenting unrest in non-white areas, a stepped up international sanctions campaign spearheaded by the Commonwealth countries and a loss of business confidence that is crippling the country's economy.

Only last week the government barred seven clergymen from going to Zambia to meet the exiled African National Congress guerrilla organization.

Naude pointed out that white businessmen had also travelled to Zambia to meet with Congress officials.

"Businessmen are astute — you can read in their message that they think the future government is no longer in South Africa," he said.

The Kairos document questions the principle of non-violence and warns that a neutral church would become increasingly irrelevant in a racially polarized society.

"The state and the media have chosen to call violence what some people do in the townships as they struggle for their liberation; that is, throwing stones, burning cars and buildings and sometimes killing collaborators," the document states.

"But this excludes the structural, institutional and unrepentant violence of the state and especially the oppressive and naked violence of the police and army."

## Losing influence

"How can acts of oppression, injustice and domination be equated with acts of resistance and self-defence? Would it be legitimate to describe both the physical force used by a rapist and the physical force used by a woman trying to resist the rapist as violence?"

Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu has warned several times in recent months that moderate black church leaders like himself are losing influence among frustrated and angry young blacks.

The Kairos document forcefully addresses that issue and calls on Christians in the country to "obey God, rather than men."

The theologians argue that apartheid cannot be reformed because the government has no mandate from its white electorate to do so.

Challenging clergyman to respond to the crisis in the country, the theologians urge a transformation of church activities to "promote the liberating mission of God" by initiating campaigns and projects in consultation with organizations that "truly represent" the grievances of the people.

Naude said the council of churches would call for sanctions against South Africa by next April unless the government:

- Issued a clear declaration of intent with regard to black political rights;
- Withdraw all troops and security forces from non-white townships;
- Released jailed guerrilla leader Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners.

# Ship unions back ban on oil to S A

## Christmas boycott puts Pretoria's white shops in dire financial straits

White-owned shops in South Africa's capital reported business slashed by up to half yesterday as a Christmas boycott by blacks began to take hold.

"We've just found out that our lives are in their hands," said the administrative manager of the Pretoria branch of OK Bazaars, a department store chain catering mainly to blacks.

He reported a 50 per cent drop in customers, an estimate clearly confirmed by the absence of black faces in the huge store, normally thronged by Christmas shoppers at this time of year.

The boycott, called on Dec. 1 and due to last a month, appears to have already had disastrous effects on retailers, who had hoped the holiday season would give a boost to sales hit hard by a severe economic recession.

The Pretoria boycott is the latest in a country-wide protest movement that has forced traders out of business in eastern Cape Province, scene of much of the rioting that has swept the country over the past 21 months and left nearly 1,000 people dead.

### SECURITY DOG RENTALS

With white South Africans now prepared to pay large sums to ensure their 'safety', businessmen are cashing in on the demand for private security measures. Recent BBC television reports have detailed the increased demand for firearms, but there is business in other areas as well. In the Eastern Transvaal a former nature conservation officer, Mr Ron Selley, has started a

Barrett Bhana, Indian manager of the white-owned MacCoys clothing outlet in central Pretoria, sat dejectedly in the shop, fully stocked in anticipation of the traditional Christmas boom.

"We could go out of business if this lasts much longer," he said.

Most of his customers come from nearby Mamelodi township, where at least 13 people were killed in a confrontation with riot police in a single incident last month. The shootings added fuel to the demands for a boycott.

The spate of boycotts across the country has underlined the consumer power wielded by the black majority. Most white merchants say that although black people earn far less than whites, their numbers make them a significant buying force.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in South Africa accused police of aggravating anti-apartheid violence. It also repeated its call for major race reforms and asked the white-minority Government to lift the state of emergency and end "the potential for the destruction of the framework of South Africa."

business training and selling guard dogs. He now also hires out security patrols. Dogs accompanied by their handlers patrol 40 farms in the region. "We make about two arrests a day, in season", boasts Mr Selley, who also operates special one-off security assignments for businesses. For this he has a military style operation and, when in uniform, his staff salute him. He is now engaged in research into insemminating Alsatian bitches with male wolf genes.

Seamen and dock workers from all over the world met in London yesterday to chart ways of choking off what they call a "secret trade" in oil to South Africa.

Conferee officials said all shipowners and oil companies will be warned that any of their vessels delivering oil to South Africa in clandestine shipments may be boycotted by national unions across the globe.

The meeting, which drew seafarers from more than 30 countries including the Soviet Union and China as well as Western nations, was called to co-ordinate support for the United Nations embargo on oil supplies to South Africa.

Neil Kinnock, leader of Britain's opposition Labor Party, opened the two-day conference by saying economic sanctions against the Pretoria Government must be intensified now that "apartheid is clearly starting to crumble."

Mr. Kinnock said the London meeting could be "truly historic" in increasing rapidly building pressures for an end to the South African system of racial segregation.

No violators of the UN voluntary embargo were named at the first session of the conference, co-sponsored by the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid and by Maritime Unions Against Apartheid.

MUAA, formed early last year by unions representing seamen and port workers in Britain, Australia and Denmark, issued a statement saying:

"Oil is vital for the maintenance of the South African machinery of repression. The police and military take up 10 per cent of the country's oil needs and are the largest consumers of oil. . .

"Maritime unions can take action to increase the risks to shippers of oil and to increase the cost of oil to South Africa. Co-ordinated action on boycotts and delayed sailings can provide an important contribution to enforcement of the oil embargo."

Jim Slater, leader of Britain's National Union of Seamen, said -- without naming names -- that "many governments have ignored demands from the international community to halt oil supplies to South Africa."

Before the conference ends this evening, delegates are expected to sign a document pledging "direct action" against the vessels of any companies providing Pretoria with oil.

Globe & Mail 12/10/85

Globe & Mail, 10/31/85

## BABB'S SPEECH FOILED

Members of U of T Divestment Committee, the Anti-Apartheid Coalition of Toronto, CCSA (Toronto) and a number of other groups prevented South African Ambassador Glenn Babb from speaking recently at the Hart House Debates at the University of Toronto. Picketers marched outside Hart House before and during the debate, while many entered the hall.

When Babb, the "Honorary Guest" at the debate on divestment, stood up to speak, the crowd chanted anti-apartheid slogans and kept Babb from speaking. He was escorted out of the room, while the shouts of anti-apartheid activists could be heard in the halls of Hart House and outside the building.

Unfortunately, this event is now being seen by many on campus as a denial of Babb's "freedom of speech". An excellent response to the attack on the U of T Divestment Committee's actions appeared recently in the campus newspaper, The Varsity. We reprint it here for your information.

## Doing the right thing

The debate on freedom of speech which has gripped these pages diverts our attention from the main issue at hand: the brutality of apartheid and Canadian support of it which is implied by an invitation to South African Ambassador Glenn Babb. We are in effect aiding the South African government's plan to whitewash their heinous crimes by featuring the 'honourable' Mr. Babb.

Today there is a news blackout in South Africa. We have no TV footage or UPI photos to evoke our revulsion of South African brutality. Instead we have Glenn Babb going on a cross-Canada speaking tour, a barbarian in a suit and tie, pretending to be civilized, and taking advantage of our Canadian ideology which portrays him as

someone representing just another point of view. The South African government has earned the unsalutary 'honour' of perpetrating a "crime against hu-

manity." As an official representative of that government, Babb carries the blood of murder and repression on his hands.

Furthermore, let us not be fooled into thinking that apartheid has no allies here in Canada. For example, it is interesting to note the speed with which President Connell and others (who have, to date, not taken a definitive position on divestment) have gone on record in support of a principle which would allow an accomplice to mass murder to present his views unobstructed. This clearly illustrates where President Connell's sympathies lie with respect to the South African people's struggle for freedom.

Our committee has no regrets regarding our actions. Philosophical rantings and ravings aside, we stand by our actions because we know in our

minds and hearts that we did the right thing.

Ava Szczurko  
on behalf of the  
U of T Divestment Committee

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