

~~W1 79~~  
~~Volume 10~~

Z7, Z8, Z9  
Z10 en Z11

**ASSESSOR**



# UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

IF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OFFICE

KHOTSO HOUSE  
42 DE VILLIERS STREET  
JOHANNESBURG  
P.O. BOX 10366  
TEL: 29-1916  
29-1917

*Bew "L.F."*

22 October 1984

Dear Friends

The UDF is presently setting up meetings with various trade unions to discuss future working relationships. Notice of such meetings is outlined in the enclosed letter.

We wish to inform you that we have sent a copy of this letter to all the head-offices of your union affiliates.

Yours in the Struggle

TREVOR MANUEL

Acting General Secretary



*How! Z 8!!*

# UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OF

KHOTSO HOU  
42 DE VILLIERS  
JOHANNESBURG  
P.O. BOX 10364  
TEL: 29-1916  
29-1917

28 September 1984

Cyril Ramaphosa  
National Union of Mineworkers  
Lekton House  
Wanderers Street  
JOHANNESBURG  
2001

Dear Comrades

We wish to express our solidarity with you and your members during the recent strike for higher wages. We extend our deepest sympathy to your Union and to the families of those who were killed and injured as a result of the harsh action taken against them by the Chamber of Mines and the South African police. We strongly condemn police use of rubber bullets, teargas and dogs against miners striking for a living wage.

We regard the Chamber of Mines' acceptance of the use of these methods against miners engaged in legal strike action as proof of their unwillingness to accept miners' right to democratically elected unions of their choice and to a living wage .

It is a grim reminder that despite the Chamber's public commitment to "collective bargaining" the ugly past of mining industrial relations is still with us - workers are still threatened with violence and dismissal whether their strike action is legal or not.

We know that the events of the last week will not deter your Union. We salute the courage and dedication of your members in our common struggle for a South African free from all forms of oppression and exploitation.

An injury to one is an injury to all!

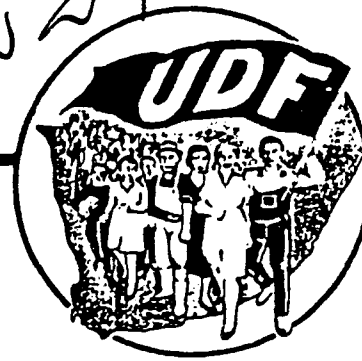
POPO MOLEFE  
GENERAL SECRETARY



# UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!

Rev 29



NATIONAL OFFICE

KHOTSO HOUSE  
42 DE VILLIERS S  
JOHANNESBURG  
P.O. BOX 10366  
TEL: 29-1916  
29-1917

15 January 1985

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONAL SECRETARIES

Dear Comrade

re: RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIONS

On October 19, 1984 the Acting General Secretary wrote a letter to all the Unions expressing the concern and desire of the UDF to strengthen its relationship with the Unions. He pointed out that the working unity established during the Anti-Constitution Campaign needed to be cemented. He advised unions that the UDF Regional offices would contact them.

Subsequent to this letter he sent out a circular to all regions of the Front informing them about the letter forwarded to unions and accordingly requested that Regions pursue more determinedly the objective of strengthening unity with unions.

When we setup the UDF we emphasized the need for worker participation, especially the organized working class. Yet very little has been achieved in this regard. We must not relent in our pursuit of this objective. If we must mean anything to the organized working class our programmes must be characterised by its active participation.

A little reflection on what happened during the May Day activities in 1984 show conclusively a great lack of union co-operation. Of all the UDF Regions only the Western Cape managed to attract a significant crowd of 3 500 people for their May Day meeting. But here too the lack of worker participation was glaring.

The Head Office thinks that with another May Day 4 months ahead of us, we stand a better chance of creating conditions for greater co-operation with unions. The common threat to unions and the UDF expressed in recent detentions, the statements by government officials attacking both the UDF and the unions, joint participation in the Transvaal stay-away, common campaign to boycott the Simba Chips products, the Grand Bazaar's strike which the Front supported are factors indicating the existing basis for co-operation.

2/....

Presidents: Oscar Mpetha, Albertina Sisulu, Archie Gumede  
EASTERN CAPE PRESIDENT: EDGAR NGOBI  
SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT: STEVE TSHWETE

National Treasurers: Cassim Saloojee, Mewa Ramrobin  
NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY: M. 'TERRAOR' LEKOTA  
NATIONAL SECRETARY: POPO MOLETE

'Z 9'

I actually think that we must seize this opportunity and use it to our advantage. I suggest that you move on this matter. Please appoint a person to take responsibility and forward the name to the H/O. The appointment of a person to concentrate on relationship with unions ensuring that meetings with unions take place is very essential.

Please treat this as a matter of urgency.

Yours in the struggle,

POPO MOLEFE  
GENERAL SECRETARY



We trust that this will help you plan discussions in the region.  
Do not hesitate to clarify any questions you might have on the  
plan with head office.

Yours in struggle,

POPO MOLEFE  
GENERAL SECRETARY



The World sees the implementation on  
a various disturbances round

Called for the release of Mandela and  
other political leaders.

Parliament is a Toy  
young colonists and Indians

(2) Those who came in  
Kisaba Bus Service  
the bus is leaving

i.e. Gama, Dan, Xinko  
Nwanjida

SUMMARY

Message of Support from South African  
Allied Workers Union (Pietrusburg Branch)

We support the ~~South~~ United Democratic  
Front. We are indeed part and  
parcel of the Front. Your struggle  
is our struggle at the factory  
floor.  
The day shall <sup>dawn</sup> when we shall  
be free

Amandla

Mantšu a <sup>the kgano</sup> ~~go sepele~~ - Lekgotla la bašoni  
(South African Allied Workers Union)

Rena ba lekgotla la bašoni ba S.A.A.U  
re na le lena mo ntweng mabap  
le kgatelelo ya batho ba naqa  
ya rena. Ntwa ya lena ke ya  
re na ya kua mešomong.

Efela le tšatši le tla fihle ma  
re ta <sup>hwetšago</sup> ~~re~~ tokolojete

Message of support from South African Allied Workers Union  
(Pietersburg Branch)

We support the United Democratic Front. We are indeed part and  
parcel of the Front. Your struggle is our struggle at the fact-  
ory floor,

The day shall dawn when we shall be free.

AMANDLA!

Mantsu a thekgano Lekgotla la basomi (SAAWU)

Rena ba lekgotla la basomi ba SAAWU re na le lena mo ntweng mabapi  
le kgateello ya batho ba naga ya rena. Ntwa ya lena ke ya rena ya  
kua mesomong.

Efela letsatsi le tla fihla moo re tla hwetsago tokologo!



AZAPO 1982



One people One Azania

MAY FIRST, 1984

International workers day

or

day of CELEBRATION

day of STRUGGLE



LABOUR DAY MEETING



#### MAY DAY: BACKGROUND

It was in 1886 at the Congress of the Federation of Organized Trade and Labour. At this historical gathering of workers it was decided and resolved that "The legal Labour Day shall be fixed" on the first of May of each year following.

The workers were motivated by unacceptable working conditions. They worked for 14 hours and sometimes even 18 hours. Children were forced to work for almost nothing.

It was a campaign to re-organize labour. The European workers, especially German immigrants, who were more experienced in worker movement and demanded eight hours a day. The bosses opposed the demand for eight (8) hours a day. Workers mobilized themselves and marched with placards demanding EIGHT (8) HOURS A DAY sang songs on EIGHT (8) HOURS. At the end these striking workers won. They had already suffered lockouts and police brutality. It cost them life and imprisonment.

#### SOUTH AFRICA:

In 1904 a group of socialists had its first celebration of MAY DAY at the Market Square Johannesburg where people usually gather to while away time. These European socialists were experienced in Trade Unionism. After the first celebration MAY DAY did not become a tradition in South Africa. It was only after the World War I that people met in Cape Town and Durban between 1906 and 1909. In the Durban area it was possible because government rail workers had gone on strike.

Once in Cape Town the Social Democrats organized a march to protest and strike against the Riotous Assemblies Bill which fell on the same day as MAY DAY. It is important to note that all along unity was based on racial lines and therefore MAY DAY was celebrated by whites only. In 1919 both Black and white socialist workers marched through the streets in Johannesburg. Miners and municipal workers went on strike to celebrate MAY DAY but even here there were very few Blacks. Blacks had organized their own meeting in the city which attracted almost 4 000 people. The police interfered and dispersed the meeting. In 1928 thousands of Blacks marched through the streets of Johannesburg and only a few whites marched along - only those whites who were serious about change and the principles of worker unity.

For about 22 years Blacks and Whites held joint celebrations and demonstrations till 1950.



# Unions must go further than shop floor politics

## OPINION

By LYBON TRAMERASA

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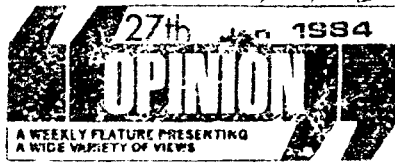
Peace women

MAY DAY (continued)

MAY DAY is usually set up with a purpose. Unity of values, international solidarity, unemployment and working conditions and other issues of common interest among the workers make up the purpose of coming together. Not only to celebrate the recognition of the day but to continue with the STRUGGLE and to pledge to fight together to achieve the desired objective: which is a SOCIALIST WORKERS REPUBLIC in AZANIA.

FORWARD WITH THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

# Unions must go further than shop floor politics



A WEEKLY FEATURE PRESENTING A WIDE VARIETY OF VIEWS

By LYBON TIYANI MABASA  
President, Azapo

MUCH excitement has been generated by the growth of the labour movement in this country — growth which has been seen as heralding a new era in our political scene.

As was to be expected, this movement has been greatly influenced by the dominant political thoughts and, as a result, it has developed in two distinctive trends: the "non-racial" trade unions on the one hand and the black consciousness-inspired trade unions on the other.

Those who rally round the banner of non-racialism argue that the instruments of change should be embodied in the envisaged change, whereas those under the Black Consciousness banner believe in instruments of change need not necessarily be embodied in the envisaged change.

In Black Consciousness we believe in taking into cogni-

sance the material conditions.

Racism in this country is not just an attitude, but it exists in structures and institutions we have to contend with on a day-to-day basis.

These structures are built to enhance and foster the false superiority of white people in this country and experience has shown that in any partnership of blacks and whites, white people feel it is their natural duty to occupy positions of leadership power and control.

Education and exposure to better facilities and life, are used to justify this position.

The trade union of labour movement has been seen by some as the most revolutionary movement capable of ushering in a new social order, while others have dismissed it as a reactionary product of a capitalist society.

Both views are inaccurate and misleading.

While, on the one hand, it is true that trade unionism introduces workers to democratic processes of accepting joint responsibility and joint decision making, it also sharpens their consciousness to the relationship that exists between them and the means of production and exchange.

This should not be misconstrued as a complete revolutionary process that needs no direction and guidance.

A revolution has been described as "a dialectical process of historical development" which is "the sum of various and diverse circumstances of multiples elements that together add up and lead to the solution, in a given historical moment of a crisis that has stubborn and deep economic causes."

With that in mind the working class as such is not synonymous with a revolutionary phenomenon. If this were true, the picture of the society in our country would have been otherwise.

As many scholars would have it — and we agree with them — the dominant ideas in any given society are those of the ruling class, and sections of the working class in this country have abandoned their fundamental worker-responsibilities and embraced the values of the ruling class.

May they have been bolstering the status quo through the exercise of their bourgeois democratic right — the vote.

We know the rule of one class over another does not

necessarily depend on economic or physical power alone, but rather on persuading the ruled to accept the system of beliefs of the ruling class and to share its social, cultural and moral values.

In our country the labour union movement could be influenced by revolutionary consciousness to transcend its limitations that straight jacket it into assuming a pressure group character that concerns itself with the amelioration of working conditions.

The movement must discard its reformist character that is being solely concerned with factory-floor grievances and turning a blind eye to both the essential situations in which the workers find themselves, and the material conditions that determine their respective backgrounds.

It should never be divorced from day-to-day rigour and vagaries of living in a racist capitalist society and for the direction of its programmes, it must draw from the ethos and pain of the workers' experiences at both factory-mass and not work systematisation level and beyond.

Workers do not cease to be — or to exist — as people after donning tools at knocking-off time.

As the political writer, Sorel, has said we believe "the working class alone" — by virtue of its being the most down-trodden and oppressed people in our society — has the moral virtues necessary to rejuvenate society and that to perform this mission it must have a faith in itself and in its purposes.

Our duty is to raise its revolutionary consciousness.

In conclusion, on this potential revolutionary phenomenon — the labour movement — Azapo has issued for any serious activist or student of society to ponder upon when he writes: "To expect that a mass, reduced to such conditions of physical and spiritual slavery, could embody a spontaneous historical development to expect that it would spontaneously begin and continue an act of revolutionary creation — is an illusion of ideologists."

To rely on the innate creative capacity of such a reality to organise a great army of disciplined and conscious militants, ready for every sacrifice, educated to put their bodies into practice simultaneously leads to assume effective responsibility for the revolution, ready to be agents of the revolution — not to do this is a real betrayal of the working class and an unconscious counter-revolution in advance.

The Azanian Peoples Organisation (Azapo), policy statement on trade unions reads: "Realising the imbalance of power between the owners of capital and black workers we acknowledge trade unions as instruments that can bring about the redistribution of power."

"In the unique situation that is South Africa, trade unions should go beyond the problems of management and labour."

"We envisage a permanent militant system of trade unions which will challenge the discriminatory labour laws of the white minority Government and thereby bring about change."

## Peace women

111  
1984  
R6 rent coming says EIT

# Extra

## Soweto Labour Day meeting

### School committees to meet on suspension

**ON THE MARCH**  
facing the challenges

# Extra

R6 rents  
coming,  
says ET

- P

## Soweto Labour Day meeting

By MONTSHIWA MOROKE  
LABOUR DAY, internationally recognised as a workers' day, will be celebrated in Soweto tomorrow.

Workers will converge at the St Hilda's Anglican Church, Senaoane, where a meeting is scheduled to start at 7pm.

A spokesman for the

Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) said yesterday the service was being held as an affirmation and as Azapo's way of showing support for the workers' struggle in this country and elsewhere.

"We will therefore give workers ample opportunity to voice their rights.

"Azapo will make a plea on behalf of the discarded, namely:

- Those who are too young to qualify for pensions;
- Those who, according to employers, are too old to be employable;
- Those who are denied the right to work because of the country's influx

laws, as well as other categories of the unemployed.

The meeting will be addressed by, among others, the president of the Insurance Assurance Workers' Union of South Africa (Iawusa) and Mr Ishmael Mkhabela, chairman of the Soweto branch of Azapo.

## School committees to meet on suspension

By JOHN MOJAPELO  
THE suspension of classes at six Atteridgeville/Saulsville post primary schools last week will be discussed by the Federal Council of School Committees this week.

Mr A Selapelo, the chairman of the council, said yesterday the meeting was to be held towards the end of the week.

"We are first going to call all school committee members to discuss

the situation in the township," Mr Selapelo said.

"After this we have to call all parents of all the students at all the schools affected."

The suspension of the classes by the Depart-

ment of Education and Training was imposed after a flare-up

The Northern Transvaal circuit of DET suspended classes at Hofmeyer, D H Peta, Flavius Mareka, Saulridge and Saulsville

## ON THE MARCH facing the challenges

ISSUED BY:  
The Secretariat for Labour  
Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO)  
JOHANNESBURG  
South Africa.