

**ASSESSOR**

**AC1**

No 19 : 67 p/87

Kw "ACI" ①

# Solidarity with SAAWU

## and our people in Ciskei.

**'An injury to one is an injury to all!'**  
The truth of these words is shown by the call of twelve organisations to support the people in the Ciskei bantustan.

The organisations are:

1. UDF (United Democratic Front)
2. Saawu (South African Allied Workers Union)
3. Cusa (Council of Unions of South Africa)
4. Fosatu (Federation of South African Trade Unions)
5. Ccawusa (Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union)
6. AFCWU (African, Food and Canning Workers Union)
7. Sacwu (SA Chemical Workers Union)
8. Gawu (General and Allied Workers Union)
9. Saldwu (SA Laundry and Drycleaning Workers Union)
10. Sasdu (South African Scooter Drivers Union)
11. OVGWU (Orange Vaal General Workers Union)
12. Descom (Detainees Support Committee)

These groups have come together in an ad hoc committee to condemn

Sebe's 'government' for banning Saawu and attacking the people in the Ciskei bantustan.

### What is going on in Ciskei?

Two months ago, the ciskei Transport Corporation raised bus fares by 11% in Mdantsane, Ciskei.

But half the residents in Mdantsane are without jobs. they could not pay, so they began boycotting the buses. They used trains instead.

The Ciskei police are trying to force the people to use the buses. Police and soldiers sit on the trains. Road blocks stop cars and taxis. Vigilantes from Sebe's Ciskei National Independence Party pull people out and beat them.

One week into the boycott, police and soldiers used their guns. When the people at Fort Jackson station refused to use the buses, Sebe's boys opened fire.

Eye witnesses say 90 people were killed and several hundred injured.

Residents elected a Committee of Ten to co-ordinate the boycott. Sebe detained eight of the ten, but the boycott went on. The CTC is losing millions of rand.

**'An injury to one  
is an injury to all!'**

## The Present Crisis

The Ciskei regime is now doing all in its power to break the boycott.

● **They have banned Saawu in Ciskei.**

They fear Saawu's principle that 'only the working class, in alliance with other progressive minded sections of the community, can build a happy life for all South Africans, a life free from unemployment, insecurity and poverty, free from racial hatred and oppression ...'

● **They have detained more than 80 people.**

Their jails are so full that they are holding people in the Sisa Dukasa stadium. Widespread reports of torture, rape and assault have come from people kept there.

● **They have detained more than 15 union leaders.**

Among these held are:

**SAAWU:** Sisa Njikelana, Bonile Tulima, Eric Mntonga, Godfrey Shiba, Gardmer Mambushe, Boyce Melitafa, Yure Mdyogolo, Shepherd Mayekiso, Derick Smoko, Cameron Mzimane, Lulamile Qumane.

**AFCWU:** Bonisile Norushe, Dlaki Vani.

**GWU:** David Thandani.

**TAWU:** (Transport and Allied Workers Union): 3 organisers

● While the Saawu offices are being raided every couple of days by the South African security police their president Thozamile Gqweta went into hiding.

● **Students in Mdantsane and Duncan**

Village are boycotting classes in support of their parents and to call for the release of fellow students who have been detained.

● The Ciskei police are conducting house to house searches looking for Saawu T-shirts, membership cards, political books and newspapers. During these searches residents are detained and beaten.

● All attempts to force the people of Mdantsane to end the bus boycott have failed. The banning of Saawu and the detention of its leaders and members have not decreased the popularity of the organisation.

● Ciskei police are visiting families of breadwinners who are in detention to check whether they have paid the rent and harassing them generally.

'Machine guns and detentions are not the solution to the boycott. Our people are still not riding buses ... our principles and pride provide us with the determination we are displaying today.'

— Saawu president, Thozamile Gqweta.

The UDF, Saawu, Gawu, AFCWU, Fosatu, Cusa, Ccawusa, Sacwu, Saldwu, Josdu, OVGWU, Descom call on all workers to support the people of Mdantsane by:

● Telling fellow workers, friends and members of the community about the banning of Saawu and the harassment and detention of all union officials and membership in the Eastern Cape and the people of Mdantsane generally.

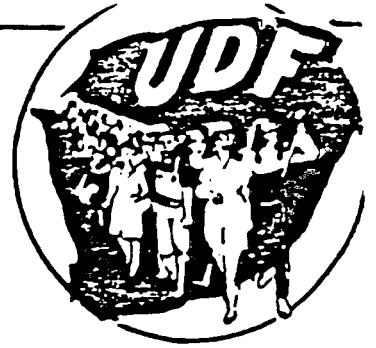
● Collecting money in their union or community organisations for the Detainees Support Committee in East London.

printed by Sham's Printers, Benoni

Issued by the United Democratic Front (Transvaal Region)  
P.O. Box 25063, Ferreirstown.

**AC2**

No 19 : 678/87



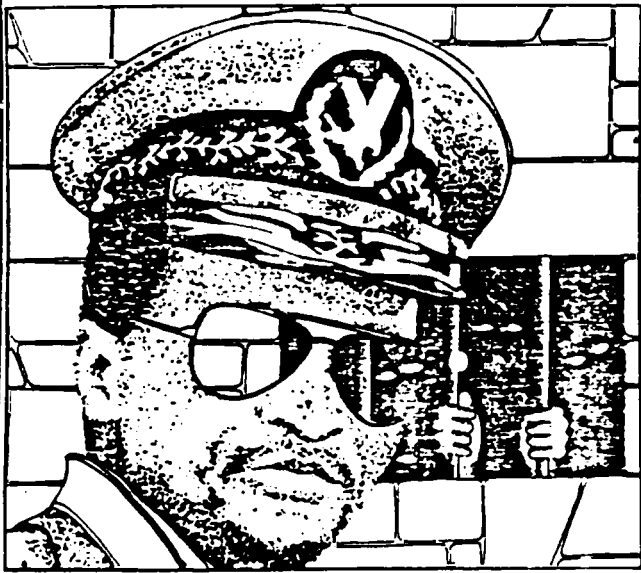
# NO TO *Rev "AC 2"* CISKEI TERROR!

"I was tortured for five days at the stadium. I was handcuffed and suspended by my wrists from the rafters of one of the dressing-rooms while I was being beaten."

-Mr Vuyisile Mbalo

"The people who assaulted me were adults and they were sober. They were aware of what they were doing. To me, such people cannot be policeman. They are thugs."

-Mr Solomon Masangane, 64 years old, both legs broken.



For more than two months now, the government of Ciskei has been waging war against the people of East London.

In early July, Gomo Transport announced a busfare increase. The people of Mdantsane in East London live miles from work; there are many unemployed. They cannot afford the higher fares. They sent a 10-person delegation to the bus company, but the bosses refused to meet them. Nearly all of the committee are now in detention.

\* On 18 July, a bus boycott began. The Ciskei Government owns part of the bus company. Sebe, the Ciskei Chief Minister, immediately began harassing Mdantsane residents to force them off the trains and onto the buses.

\* Vigilantes and Ciskei police beat-up people who refused to board the busses. People have to show their rent payments, their dompas, house permits, Ciskei National Independence Party cards. If they do not have any one of these, they are arrested or kept from work.

\* On August 4, Sebe began open war against the bus boycotters. People trying to board trains were shot by lines of police. Hundreds have been beaten-up. There are stories of disappearances and secret burials. Sebe's figure of seven dead is nowhere near the truth.

\* There is a State of Emergency in the Ciskei. Anyone on the streets after 10.30 pm can be arrested - though Sebe's thugs start harassing people much earlier.

Hundreds of people have been detained. Many have been taken to the Sisa Dukashe stadium to be interrogated and tortured. One man was handcuffed hands to feet and made to swing from a rod between two tables. A Rhodes student, Nombeko Dwesini, was taken from her home and beaten for 15 hours in the stadium.

\* The trade union SAAWU (South African Allied Workers Union) has been banned in the Ciskei. Nearly all the trade union leaders - including General Workers Union and Food & Canning Workers Union - have been detained. SAAWU is a

member of the UDF. The meeting to launch the Border region of UDF - scheduled for September 24th - was banned by the South African authorities.

\* The people of East London are determined. They will not end the boycott until their demands are met and their leaders are released. The schools have also boycotted in support of their parents.

The people of East London need our support and solidarity. They are facing the vicious results of the Bantustan policy. The South African government and police work hand-in-hand with Sebe's thugs - we need to oppose not just Sebe, but the whole cruel policy.

The Nationalist government has stated that the future of the African people lies in the Bantustans. This is the future that the new constitution holds out for the majority. PW's plans are to send millions into the hands of their puppets like Sebe.

Must we accept this homeland independence, that divides and oppresses us?

AC 2

KTC - CROSSROADS : THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CISKEI

Thousands of people live in Cape Town's squatter camps. They are daily being harassed by South African police and BAAB officials. Their houses are torn down and they are attacked by police dogs, teargassed and baton-charged. Many of these people are so-called Ciskeians. They do not see the Ciskei as their home. There are no jobs in the Ciskei. The drought has caused starvation and hunger. In Cape Town, they can get jobs, there is water. Women and children can live with their husbands and fathers. Some have fled the Ciskei to live in Cape Town as refugees.

Must the people of KTC-Crossroads pay the price for Pretoria's Bantustan dream? Is the Ciskei situation the promise that P W Botha holds out for our brothers and sisters in the African townships?

NO TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE KOORNHOF BILLS !

JOIN THE UDF CALL !

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF MDANTSANE AND EAST LONDON !

REJECT THE CISKEI TERROR !

SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF KTC- CROSSROADS !

AWAY WITH THE BANTUSTAN FRAUD ! WE ARE ALSO HERE TO STAY !

**solidarity meeting  
hanover park civic  
sun. 2 october-3 pm**

**AC3**



## NATAL REPORT

Rev "A C 3"

### PRELIMINARY

Our region is of the view that it is necessary to review the procedure and the nature and depth of discussion at NEC Meetings. For example too much time is spent on discussing mechanical and administrative detail and not enough time on policy and other important matters.

### CISKEI

The process suggested by the NEC was adopted and several meetings were called to consult with the Unions prior to the holding of the protest meeting. Eventually the meeting was held on the 17/10/83. About 400 people were present - the support from the Unions was poor.

A number of people from Durban had gone to the Ciskei and had compiled reports of the brutality and repression in that region. These investigations together with those conducted by others assisted in exposing the conditions prevailing in the Ciskei.

Similar meetings were held in the other regions. Some persons have been released but many are still languishing in prisons and the repression is still intense. What do we do now - this is a question which the NEC must address.

### PEOPLE'S WEEKEND

The peoples weekend was observed in NATAL from the 28th to the 30th. The following were the major events:

#### MOTORCADE

25 cars participated in a motorcade on Saturday morning. They drove through central Durban for about 2 hours. The response from the people was excellent. Many people came up, to the cars asking for UDF news, posters and stickers.

## CHURCH SERVICES

On Sunday morning approximately 10 services were addressed by UDF speakers. Prior and after the people's weekend UDF speakers have spoken at and continue to speak at many Church services.

## Rallies

On the 16th a meeting was held at the Phoenix Settlement for the people of Inanda and Kwa Mashu and on the 23rd mass pre-rally meetings were held in Lamontville, Merebank, and Western Areas.

A crowd of 6000 attended the peoples rally held at the Edendale Lay Ecumenical Centre. The Natal committee had encountered problems with some of the trustees but these were resolved. The rally gave those people who were not able to experience the national launching the opportunity to enjoy a similar experience at a regional level.

The peoples weekend both in Natal and Nationally was a success.

## COMMISSIONS

The 2 commissions appointed by the NEC did not get off the ground as the terms of reference were not supplied. However, our region is of the view that the removals issue is more relevant and falls within the ambit of the issues to be taken up by the UDF. Education on the other hand does not and we suggest that this commission be held in abeyance for the time being.

## LAMOTVILLE/HAMBANATI INCORPORATION

Reverend Xundu will present a verbal report on this issue.

## NGOYE

Mr. Ramgobin will present a verbal report on this issue.

## INTERNATIONAL

Much greater attention needs to be given to this area.

## FUTURE PROGRAMME

Million Signature Campaign

It was agreed that this campaign commences at the beginning of 1984.

Easter Fund Raising Fair

This is an idea which has been suggested by some persons in our region and needs to be discussed further.

## NATAL REPORT - NEC -21/1/84

### REFERENDUM

Natal confirmed the view it held at the P.E. Conference that the UDF should call for a referendum and vote NO. The compromise it is prepared to agree to is that the UDF should not take a decision but allow affiliates to decide which tactic to adopt in opposing the constitution

### SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

A workshop is being held over this weekend to work out the details of the execution of the campaign. A draft handbook and briefing document have been prepared and circulated to NEC members for discussion. A sub-committee of 5 persons has been elected to co-ordinate the campaign. A regional co-ordinator will be employed from 1/2/84. The Natal office will be used to co-ordinate the campaign in the Province. The signature form circulated by the secretary has been accepted.

### CONSCRIPTION

A sub committee of 5 persons has been elected. The paper delivered at the P.E. Conference will be circulated and a workshop held in February.

### INKATHA

The UDF should not meet Inkatha. A carefully considered letter should be sent by UDF to Inkatha setting out the reasons which do not make the meeting possible. Some of these are:

- \* the events at Ngoye
- \* the form that students receiving aid through Kwa Zulu are forced to sign.
- \* the prevailing tense and hostile climate

Many members of Inkatha form part of the oppressed and exploited masses. The letter should bear this in mind and be drafted so that it contributes to the goal of achieving maximum unity of the oppressed.

### SABC-TV-INTERVIEW

Natal decided that no interviews should be granted to SABC TV by any member of the region which recommends that the NEC and other regions adopt a similar policy.

**AC4**

Rev "AG 4" ①

We observe with increasing concern the increasing naked violence perpetrated by the Sebe puppet regime against our people in the part of our country called Ciskei the intimidation of boycotting commuters and the banning of mass based trade unions like SAAWU is reminiscent of the methods used by all fascist dictatorships to preserve themselves in the face of popular opposition

The repression in the Ciskei is the direct result of the policy of separate development and Bantustan Independence which has been incessantly pursued by the South African Government.

Noting:

-that the government is pursuing a policy of indiscriminate forced uprooting and removals of our people as evidenced recently at Katlehong, Orlando East, Crossroads, Ventersdorp, and Bekkersdaal;

-the resettlement of thousands of our people in barren, overcrowded and impoverished Bantustans;

-the arrogant threat of eviction of Indians and Coloured tenants from white group areas despite the rhetoric of reform;

and

-all this is aimed at serving the interest of the dominant, political and economic forces in our country;

therefore resolves:

To support all people who are struggling against removals and the Group Areas Act

AND DEMAND:

the repeal of the group areas act and stop the removals and resettlement.

BEW "A.C. 4" (2)

We observe with increasing concern the increasing naked violence perpetrated by the Sebe puppet regime against our people in the part of our country called Ciskei the intimidation of boycotting commuters and the banning of mass based trade unions like SAAWU is reminiscent of the methods used by all fascist dictatorships to preserve themselves in the face of popular opposition

The repression in the Ciskei is the direct result of the policy of separate development and Bantustan Independence which has been incessantly pursued by the South African Government.

Noting:

- that the government is pursuing a policy of indiscriminate forced uprooting and removals of our people as evidenced recently at Katlehong, Orlando East, Crossroads, Ventersdorp, and Bekkersdaal;
  - the resettlement of thousands of our people in barren, overcrowded and impoverished Bantustans;
  - the arrogant threat of eviction of Indians and Coloured tenants from white group areas despite the rhetoric of reform;
- and
- all this is aimed at serving the interest of the dominant, political and economic forces in our country;

Therefore resolves:

To support all people who are struggling against removals and the Group Areas Act

AND DEMAND:

the repeal of the group areas act and stop the removals and resettlement.

**AC5**

No 19: 67857



BEW "AL 5"

SAAWU AND BORDER REGION SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

P. O. Box 25063  
FERREIRASTOWN  
2048

27 September 1983

Dear Friends

The following twelve organisations have come together in an ad hoc committee to condemn Sebe's 'government' for banning Saawu and attacking the people of the Border region:

UDF (United Democratic Front)  
Saawu (South African Allied Workers Union)  
Cusa (Council of Unions of South Africa)  
Mawu (Metal and Allied Workers Union)  
Ccawusa (Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union)  
AFCWU (African Food and Canning Workers Union)  
Sacwu (SA Chemical Workers Union)  
Gawu (General and Allied Workers Union)  
Saldwu (SA Laundry and Drycleaning Workers Union)  
Sasdu (SA Scooter Drivers Union)  
OVGWU (Orange Vaal General Workers Union)  
Descom (Detainees Support Committee)

So far the committee has had two meetings at which it was decided there were three main areas of solidarity work:

Publicity and Education  
Solidarity Action by workers  
Fundraising

The UDF hosted a press conference which was attended by journalists who were informed of the situation in the Border region.

Later in the week the UDF called a public lunch hour meeting at Khotso House in Johannesburg to express solidarity with Saawu and the Border region. The meeting was attended by



two hundred people and were addressed by speakers from Saawu in the Eastern Cape, UDF and Ccawusa.

Education and Solidarity action

All unions present at the initial meeting agreed to return to their members and discuss ways in which they could educate their members about what is happening in the region and plan solidarity action.

Fundraising


All unions present committed themselves to consulting their membership about raising funds for relief for the families of detainees and also for detainees in need of medical or legal assistance.

If your members have made donations, these could be posted to the above address, or delivered personally to the UDF offices, 4th Floor, Khotso House, de Villiers Street, Johannesburg. The meeting decided that all contributions will be channeled through Descom in Johannesburg to Descom in East London. Cheques to Descom.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 3:00 o'clock at the UDF offices, fourth Floor, Khotso House, Johannesburg on the 5 October 1983.

Yours in Solidarity

P. Molefe

  
UDF Secretary General

**AC6**

**AC7**

# BANTUSTAN REPRESSION

AT

# UNITRA

*Ben 'AC 711*

## EDUCATION IN CRISIS

Black education in South Africa has reached another crisis point with the racist State and its bantustan extensions more prepared to crush student opinion in our campuses and schools. The closure of the Atteridgeville schools is a manifestation of this. At the same time we see detention and harassment of a number of students at Fort Hare by Sebe government. Matanzima has declared a state of virtual martial law in Transkei, has detained a large number of students at Unitra and deported academics. The university has since been closed down by the police and all students expelled.



## REPRESSION AT UNITRA

During the graduation ceremony at Unitra at the end of April the rector, Prof. Van der Merwe stated in his address that in future he is going to uproot all "politicians" on campus and only "academic" activities will be allowed. This was an indication of things to come. Soon after this on 8 May 1984, four students (3 SRC members and one House Committee member) were informed to report at the Academic Registrar's office on Wed. 9 May 1984 at 9.00 a.m. That morning these students were then transported from the Registrar's office in a university vehicle to the State Security offices in Umtata.

The rest of the Student Body convened a meeting at 1.00 p.m. after learning of these detentions. This meeting was adjourned to 3.30 p.m. in order to wait for part-time students who start lectures later in the afternoon.

Later the detained students were released during the course of the meeting and they informed the Student Body that they were to report again to the security offices the following day.

The Student Body meeting then resolved to boycott classes with immediate effect until they were assured that these students will not be detained or if detained should be charged immediately.

That evening by 9.00 p.m. the university was cordoned off by police and roadblocks were mounted at the entrances until the following morning. At about 9.45 that morning, the registrar (academic), Mr S.D. Majokweni, accompanied by the Chief of Security police Cl. L. Kawe read out a notice informing the students about closure of the university. All students were to vacate the campus by 10.00 a.m. that same morning and should report back on Monday 14 May. This ultimatum was signed by the Chief of Security Police.

Many students were left stranded with no accommodation and it was through the help of the Transkei Council of Churches and other sympathetic community members that alternative accommodation was organised. A curfew

was announced for students not to be seen out in the streets between 6.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.

On Monday, 14 May the four students were still in detention and the boycott continued. All meetings were subsequently banned and the staff could not meet to discuss the issue.

That afternoon the students were ordered into the university library where the police baton charged them. More students were detained. Four academics were then deported out of Transkei. Lecturers and students at Unitra have been struck by fear and insecurity because they cannot predict what might happen to anyone of them at any moment. Top academics have been expelled and many of them are wondering how teaching can go on at the university without lecturers.

WE CALL FOR UNITY AND SUPPORT

1. Many students at Unitra are stranded for accommodation, financial assistance etc. AZASO therefore appeals to all members of our community, especially in Transkei to give whatever support they can to our fellow brothers and sisters or children.
2. The situation at Unitra deserves outright condemnation from all sectors of our community. We, therefore, call upon everyone to join Unitra students and AZASO in the demand for the unconditional release of detained students and readmission of all students.

We also demand the end to harassment and intimidation of genuine student leaders.

3. Finally, we call upon all Unitra students to be united and support their representative student leaders. We also call upon all universities and colleges throughout South Africa to register support for Unitra students in whatever manner they can.

We must not allow repression and intimidation to stop our determination to fight for our rights on campuses and an end to white minority rule.

# ★★★ highlights ★★★

★★★★★

## FORT HARE

At Fort Hare University there has been a number of boycotts in the last 2 weeks. This was due to detention of a number of students by the Sebe government.

Admission of students at this campus is through the approval of the Ciskei bantustan. Therefore repression here has become very severe and more detentions can be expected.

## ONGOYE

Students at this campus are again making a call for an end to Bantustan interference in University matters.

The demand from the students that Chief Gatsha Buthelezi should resign as chancellor at Ongoye, has received massive support from most academics on campus and outside. This call has intensified since the tragedy at Ongoye last year when an Inkatha impi murdered 4 students and more than a hundred others were injured. Gatsha Buthelezi is the leader of Inkatha and also the chief minister of Kwa-Zulu.

Therefore an appeal has been made to all students and parents to boycott the coming graduation ceremony on 30 June 84, and subsequent ones as long as Gatsha is still the chancellor at the University.

LET US UNITE AND FIGHT

ISSUED BY AZASO

**AC8**



Ben "AC 8"

REPORT ON COMPANIES OPERATING WITHIN THE CISKEI

TO: UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT  
CISKEI SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

BY: PETER HARRIS  
U D F  
BORDER REGION SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

This report was compiled under difficult circumstances and is not intended to be a complete list of all the companies operating in the Ciskei. It merely lists the major companies operating in the territory and their known or suspected links with national companies or Multinational Corporations.

1. COMPANIES OPERATING: PARENT COMPANY

L.T.A CISKEI	-	ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION
CISKEI FURNISHERS AND ADVERTISING	-	FRASERS
DINBAZA FOUNDRIES	-	LOHNRO GROUP (U K)
OCEAN STATE CHORDAGE MILLS	-	U S A
INTERNATIONAL STRETCH PRODUCTS - (makes polypropelene and chord products)	-	U S A
CISKEI MILLING	-	TONGAAT/HULETTS
CONSOLIDATED TEXTILE MILLS	-	FRAME GROUP
A.MOORE COMPANY	-	U K COMPANY
THRUSTOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES - (believed to be a division of Protea Holdings).	-	BIRDEN GROUP
CISKEIAN INSURANCE BROKERS	-	WILLIS FABER
SOUTHERN CISKEI BREWERIES	-	(SAB) -
SOUTHERN COMBING	-	(TAIWANESE)

2. COMPANIES OPERATING UNDER OWN NAME

DA GAMA TEXTILES  
SOUTHERN SUNS  
CHECKERS  
VAN LEER S.A. (packaging)

MURRAY AND ROBERTS  
NATAL BUILDING SOCIETY  
SOUTHERN TRIDENT BUILDING SOCIETY  
ALLIED BUILDING SOCIETY  
ANGLO AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE  
METROPOLITAN HOMES TRUST LIFE

3. RELOCATED COMPANIES (from South Africa to Ciskei)

S & D ENGINEERING  
I.P.M (Kitchenware)  
INTA-LITE (electrical fittings)  
RHINO PLASTICS

4. COMPANIES OPERATING IN CISKEI WHOSE LINKS ARE UNKNOWN

1. SUPA FOODS
2. DIMBAZA FIBRES
3. CHINA GARMENTS
4. MONTAGE CARPET WEAVERS
5. REINDEER CARPETS
6. CISKEI PAINTS
7. CISKEI STRUCTURES & ASSEMBLIES
8. CISKEI PRINTERS
9. L.C HURWITZ - CYCLES
10. LI LAX (Dimbaza - Bedding)
11. SOLO - VEL H<sub>2</sub>O HEATERS
12. SWODEN TIMBER PRODUCTS
13. HARRISON AND WHITE CONTRACTORS

It is intended that the labour practices of each of the above companies be investigated as also their actions and attitude with regard to the current state of emergency.

11th October 1983