

Ltd. Hubert Davies is owned by a British Company called Blue Circle. The new management of Craft tried to set up a liaison committee. But the members refused to accept this and demanded recognition for their union. The Union officials were told to contact Hubert Davies and to present this demand to management.

Union officials met with Hubert Davies. The company checked the Union membership at Craft and agreed that the Union was representative. The Company agreed to negotiate with the Union. The Union officials then demanded that the shop stewards from Craft must take part in all negotiations.

The Company said they wanted to watch the elections of shop stewards to check that they were fair, then they would meet the shop stewards to negotiate.

On Monday, March 10 the Union held a general meeting at the factory in working hours. At this meeting the union officials were present and the management were invited to watch. The election rules were discussed and nominations for shop stewards were taken.

Then on Friday, March 14 at 7.00 am. the Union held shop steward elections at Craft. Once again the management were invited to watch.

Five of the 6 original shop stewards were re-elected by the members to represent them. The management has now agreed that the Union can make proposals for an agreement. The management will then meet to discuss these proposals with the shop stewards and union officials.

Workers at Craft are very pleased at the progress in the relationship between the Company and the Union. The struggle is not over yet. The most important job is still facing the Union in Craft: to try to negotiate a good agreement with management, which will give greater protection for the rights of workers and proper recognition of the Union.

But Craft members should be congratulated for their achievements. They have won an important battle.

We hope that workers in other factories will be inspired by this victory to struggle harder for their rights in their own factories.



Krommenie Shop Stewards at a meeting in Jacobs, Durban.



WORKERS STRUGGLE AT FORBO-KROMMENIE CONTINUES

The workers at Forbo-Krommenie have been struggling hard for the recognition of their union since June 1978. But the management is very uncooperative. Management met union officials once in July 1978 but have refused to meet them again.

The Company has tried many tricks to break the union. Let us give you an example of this. In the Novilon Department in which the union was very strong workers were involved in a dispute with management. The union said that the management had "locked the workers out" (when a company stops workers from working this is called a lock-out).

Because the company said that the lockout was really a "strike" the labour dept. tried prosecuting the workers. They were found not guilty. The workers remained united and all the workers in the dept. except one got their jobs back in the Novilon dept. The worker who didn't get his job back was a strong shop steward. The union then took the company to court. After an out of Court settlement the company was forced to pay the shop steward's wages for two months after the lockout and the union lawyer for his expense.

In 1979 the company tried setting up a Works Council. The workers rejected this and kept pushing for the recognition of their union. The com-

pany fired two more of the strong shop stewards during the year.

OVERSEAS SHOP STEWARD VISIT

Forbo-Krommenie is owned by a Swiss Company called Forbo which has factories all over Europe. One of them is Forbo Forshaga in Sweden. The workers there are organised into their union and management recognises that union. When workers there heard about the struggle in S. Africa they demanded an explanation from their management. They decided to send one of their shop stewards Hugo Persson to S. Africa to find out what was happening here.

In November last year Hugo and a Union official Ernst Hollander came to S. Africa and met workers and management. They were surprised by the strength of the union. They went back to Sweden and wrote a long report about how strongly the workers are united in Forbo-Krommenie. They are now pushing the mother company Forbo to recognise the union here in S. Africa. They now know that their struggle is the same as our struggle here.

The Krommenie workers are fighting a long and hard struggle - we wish them success.

**WORKERS! THIS IS YOUR NEWSPAPER
WRITE TO US AND TELL US ABOUT
THE STRUGGLES IN YOUR FACTORY.**