

AFRICA - LABOUR

1976 → 1977 ⇒ 1979

(1) Africa - Labour

(2) 200

Labour

pressure

29/4/76

likely

STAR

on SA

Chris van Gass
The Star's Africa
News Service

MBABANE — South Africa could soon face serious anti-migratory labour pressures from its neighbouring countries if a resolution adopted by the United Nations Development Advisory Team (Undat) is carried out.

Fourteen African nations — including Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland — unanimously condemned the migrant labour system through the resolution.

The resolution included a decision that the UNDAT secretariat will convene at the end of the year to discuss the "economic problems of the three countries not yet independent" (South West Africa, Rhodesia and South Africa).

The meeting was held over three days outside Mbabane.

Observers believe the move might open the way for the use of migrant labour as an economic weapon against South Africa.

They expect that the UNDAT year-end convention will be attended not only by representatives of the liberation movements of South Africa, South West Africa and Rhodesia but also by representatives of Southern African Black states who could plump strongly for economic pressure against South Africa and Rhodesia.

Africa RDM. 30/4/76

① Africa - Labor



14 nations to squeeze White South

MBABANE.—The 14 Black African states surrounding the White South are to formulate a programme for economic pressure on Rhodesia, South West Africa and South Africa to aid "liberation movements" in those countries.

The Council of Ministers of the Lusaka-based United Nations Development Advisory Team (Undat) yesterday concluded a three-day conference in Mbabane by announcing that a conference of all its member states would be organised later this year, probably in November. Liberation movements from the three White-ruled countries would also attend.

The conference would "discuss the economic problems in countries which are not yet independent, with particular reference to problems resulting from the migratory labour system".

Means would be sought "towards the speeding up through economic means of the liberation of countries not yet independent".

Member states, the council added, "will continue to provide trading facilities and employment opportunities" for people forced to leave the White-ruled countries.

Conference sources said later that special emphasis had been placed on the problem of migratory labour because it was considered "both politically unacceptable and economically inefficient."

The November conference would also consider whether it could organise collectively through economic means assistance for "liberation movements" through sanctions or other means.

It was also announced last night that the 14 states had agreed in principle to establish a form of common market in East and Southern Africa. Detailed discussions had already been held on the possibility of extending present regional cooperation, particularly in areas such as planning, basic industrial development and inter-territorial transport links.

The conference passed a resolution "saluting" Mozambique and Angola on attaining independence and agreed to give the two countries all possible economic assistance. It also called on the international community to help Mozambique recover from the effects of the closure of its border with Rhodesia.

Represented at the conference were: Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia.

Observers from both wings of the Rhodesian African National Council and the South West African People's Organisation were present.—Sapa.

SIZE GROUP (HECTARE)	ECONOMIC REGION											
	12		13		14		15		16		17	
	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area
TO 1,9	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	10	10	21	21
2 -	5	17	26	78	-	-	6	24	33	108	319	922
5 -	3	27	21	148	-	-	6	43	26	196	235	1 707
10 -	3	48	21	298	-	-	8	107	64	1 007	401	5 501
20 -	6	170	30	941	27	394	11	394	435	13 072	306	8 729
50 -	7	531	35	2 601	181	521	8	521	256	17 151	68	4 760
100 -	13	1 878	31	4 365	151	171	1	171	82	10 979	75	11 520
200 -	15	3 716	19	4 674	692	992	4	992	20	4 948	50	12 700
300 -	32	12 567	47	19 075	1 255	2 480	6	2 480	61	23 868	160	63 693
500 -	106	76 610	174	132 901	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 000 -	162	237 187	388	582 988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 000 -	216	701 289	653	2 106 334	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 000 -	88	597 292	240	1 642 843	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 000 -	31	446 588	76	1 094 357	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	687	2 077 920	1 763	5 591 605	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

recently ...
Black townships.

23/6/77 NANA MERUO

GHANA'S LEGAL STRIKE THREAT

ACCRA - Ghana's lawyers yesterday threatened to stop work next week if the ruling Supreme Military Council did not begin moves towards a return to civilian rule, the Ghana News Agency reported.

The Ghana Bar Association gave the Military Council until July 1 to hand over to a presidential commission.

The armed forces, led by Colonel Ignatius Acheampong, have held power since a bloodless coup in January, 1972.

The lawyers thus follow Ghana's doctors, engineers, bankers, chartered accountants, veterinary surgeons and surveyors, who all threatened last Friday to withdraw their services if the Government failed to resign next month. (Sapa-Reuter.)

(2)

Though all shared many gifts in common, Lightfoot was primarily the historian, Hort the philosopher, and Westcott the exegete. When Lightfoot's first great commentary, that on the Epistle to the Galatians, appeared (1865), Hort was inclined to criticize it on the ground that some of the doctrinal problems involved had been inadequately treated.¹ But Lightfoot knew his own limitations. What he could handle as an historian he would handle superbly; what was not within his field must be left to others whose gifts were different from his own. Hort, who among other things had taken high honours in the School of Botany and Physiology at Cambridge, had a far wider knowledge of philosophy

In the case of Bophuthatswana and Transkei the figures include workers who, at the time of independence, were already in the Republic and who therefore did not come to South Africa afterwards in terms of the labour agreements.

The three scholars were: Germany. Baur, who die vast enterprise of a com| quity, and had reached c| three to be vulnerable at| brought the critical prob| in England.² The only v| to carry out an equally comprehensive survey, or, at least, a

critical principles, but far more soberly, far more realistically, with far greater attention to accuracy, and with far fewer presuppositions than those which Baur had brought with him into the field. The three friends planned nothing less than a complete commentary on the New Testament, to be based on a critically edited Greek text, to be philological, historical, exegetical, and doctrinal, and so to present

¹ A. F. Hort, *Life and Letters of Fenton J. A. Hort*, vol. ii (1890), pp. 79-80: 'Certainly his doctrinal statements are far from satisfying me. One misses the real attempt to fathom St. Paul's own mind, and to compare it with the facts of life which one finds in Jowett. On the other hand, he is surely always admirable on historical ground . . . as also in all matters of grammar and language and such like essential externalities.'

² Lightfoot, Westcott, and Hort, while disagreeing with the writers of *Essays and Reviews* at many points, felt that they had been scurvily treated by the church authorities, and that far too little recognition had been given to their genuine honesty of purpose. They even for a short time contemplated writing a reply, but fortunately this plan was given up—a very different approach to the whole problem was needed.

the whole panorama of Christian truth against the setting of its historical origins. Lightfoot was to deal with the Pauline Epistles and Hebrews, Westcott with the Johannine writings, to which Hebrews was later added, and Hort with the other books of the New Testament. The plan was never carried out in its entirety; what we have from the three originators of it is a magnificent fragment, and much of their achievement is of permanent and unchangeable value.

From the moment of his appointment to the professorship at Cambridge in 1861 Lightfoot was an immense success as a lecturer and teacher. Nothing like his lectures had been heard before in Cambridge. The New Testament had been treated as a repository of

proof-texts, to be quoted and copied, with little regard to the text. Lightfoot's method was founded on the Epistle to the Hebrews became aware of the number of those desiring to be moved to the Hall of that something was as

was said in Cambridge that, it still see the light on in his age. His mind was systematic, and exact. Bishop Westcott's job of handling his materials:

Handwritten: *Labour agreements*
 265. Mr. J. D. DU P. BASSON asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

(a) With which countries in Africa does the Republic have labour agreements at present and (b) how many workers from each of these countries were employed in the Republic under each such agreement during 1978.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(a) Formal labour agreements and/or labour arrangements exist with Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Bophuthatswana, Transkei, Malawi and Rhodesia.

(b) During the period 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978—a labour year for statistical purposes—the following number of workers were employed in South Africa in terms of the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements:

Botswana	34 674
Lesotho	155 623
Swaziland	14 054
Malawi	38 525
Mozambique	49 108
Rhodesia	27 494
Bophuthatswana	516 325
Transkei	500 294

His method of working was characteristic. When a subject was chosen, he mastered, stored, arranged in his mind, all the materials which were available for its complete treatment, but he drew up no systematic notes, and sketched no plan. As soon as the scope of the Essay was distinctly conceived, he wrote continuously and rapidly, trusting to his memory for the authorities which he used, and adding them as he went forward, but so that every reference was again carefully verified in proof.¹

In the hands of anyone else this method could well have been dangerous; but undoubtedly it was for Lightfoot the right method. He was fortunately gifted with a style of singular lucidity; and the

¹ Prefatory Note to *The Apostolic Fathers: Part I. S. Clement of Rome* (1890), p. vii. This note was written about a year after Lightfoot's death.

Island paradise it may be, but Mauritius, a speck in the Indian Ocean, is going through a period of

political change and upheaval, writes JOHN WORRALL



Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam ... likely to be first President.



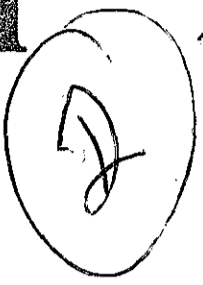
Gaetan Duval ... leads party of the big planters.



PAUL BERENGER ... his left-wing opposition party backed strike.

Sugar strikes paralysed an island paradise

Skw
31/10/79



The tiny sugar island of Mauritius, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, is slowly recovering from the most damaging period it has ever experienced.

Strikes of Indian and Creole sugar cane cutters, sugar mill workers, dock and transport workers, paralysed the island. The sugar cane, on which Mauritius lives, stood uncut in the fields and some was deliberately burned. Ships lay idle in the harbour at Port Louis, shops were closed and Government offices were abandoned.

The 21 sugar mills on the island had to close.

Some 140 000 workers struck for an 8 percent pay rise — which failed.

Trade union officials went on hunger strike to protest against tough government action.

Among them was Paul Berenger, the white leader of the left-wing Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM), the opposition party which backed the strike.

The strike is said to have cost Mauritius some R54-million. For weeks it dislocated the sugar industry which gives Mauritius a precarious living, producing more than 70 000 tons a year. Mauritius thinks, breathes, lives sugar.

Some 500 000 tons goes to the Common Market which gives Mauritius a

reasonable return, but the rest goes on the world market at precarious prices.

Harbour chaos held up the vital imports which the island desperately needs — rice, wheat, meat — because so much land is devoted to King Sugar that little space is available for food crops. The balance of payments is in the red.

The cost of living has gone up sharply in this desperately poor island as a result of the industrial unrest.

"We are fighting for survival in Mauritius," said one sugar man. "It is very different from the boom years of the early to middle 70s, when there were constant wage increases to the sugar

workers. Labour costs now stand at about 50 percent of the cost of production. It is time for a wage pause."

Port Louis is the centre of this little microcosm of world problems in the far-off spaces of the Indian Ocean. The narrow streets, paved with crumbling volcanic rock gathered from the sugar plantations, are bordered by old French colonial houses rapidly falling into ruin. Many of them are splendid with fine old ironwork. The occasional modern building stands out irrelevantly.

Queen Victoria, resplendent in stone robes, sceptre and crown, still dominates the hot, steamy city. From her plinth outside the old Government buildings she looks down an avenue of palms towards the harbour.

Beautiful

A few weeks ago thousands of demonstrating strikers swirled round her feet, harassed and harried by members of the para-military mobile force which is all that Mauritius has for an army.

Up in the most beautiful house in Mauritius, a dazzling white French colonial chateau, called La Reduit, lives the acting Governor-General, Mr D Burrenchobay, who represents Queen Elizabeth II. Unlike all other African Commonwealth countries,

Mauritius has not become a republic — yet.

Mr Burrenchobay, small, smooth, immaculately dressed, a former head of the civil service and erstwhile teacher, gave us some of the delicious vanilla-flavoured island tea on the balcony overlooking the tropical gardens.

He is an Indian, like most of the Mauritian political hierarchy. There was a feeling that he was keeping La Reduit warm for the Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who is likely to be the first President of Mauritius when it inevitably becomes a republic.

Finance

People on the island are increasingly talking of a new constitution bringing in a republic, possibly with a Parliamentary system, a Prime Minister and a constitutional Head of State. There is also talk of a referendum.

Even though Mauritius is French- or Creole-speaking, the links with Britain are very strong. Tate and Lyle buys almost two-thirds of the sugar crop. The Prime Minister is a Privy Councillor, and a great deal of aid finance comes from Britain.

The left-wing movement MMM has in the last few years made considerable advances in Mauritius, having won 34 of the 70 parliamentary seats at the last General Election in 1976. But Sir Seewoosagur Ramgool-

am's pro-Western Labour Party formed a coalition with the right-wing Social Democratic Party (the party of the big planters) led by Mr Gaetan Duval, and maintains rather shaky control of the country.

The failure of the strike has brought considerable trouble to Mr Berenger's party, and he is being challenged by a group even further to the left.

Nevertheless, Mr Berenger, if he can keep his party together, is in a good position to win another election which could take Mauritius well on the road to the kind of socialist governments which Seychelles, Madagascar, Tanzania and other countries on the Indian Ocean seaboard have adopted.

Fragile

The Mauritians, no doubt as a result of their mixed origins, are a highly volatile people. The peerless beauty of their tropical, paradise isle surroundings does not soften that characteristic.

Into this mere dot of 720 square miles in the Indian Ocean is poured an expanding population of more than 900 000 people, who are imprisoned by a fragile mono-economy from which there is no escape.

They are mostly poor, productivity is low, the cost of living is controlled by the huge import bill, and there is free education at every level,

producing increasing political sophistication and a growing reluctance to work in the cane fields and sugar mills.

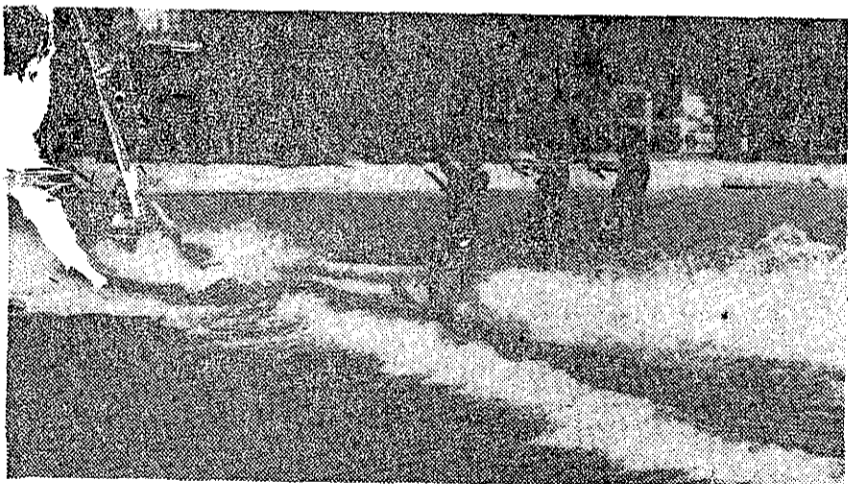
Their origins are mainly Indian, their ancestors having been brought over as indentured labour on the 19th century sugar estates. There are about 200 000 Creoles of mixed French and African slave origin who came in the 18th century.

There is still a largish population of French settlers — the "Grands Blancs" who own and manage the bigger sugar estates and are active in big business.

What is so marked in Mauritius is the relaxed racial and communal atmosphere. This has been helped in recent years by the almost universal adoption of the French-based island patois, which is spoken by every community. Mauritius may have its industrial troubles but never communal or racial ones.

The Mauritius economy may be in a highly delicate state but it has been greatly helped in recent years by a positive tourist policy which brings in 100 000 tourists a year from all parts of the world, and foreign exchange earnings of 300-million rupees.

The island coastline is ringed by about 20 first-class hotels and the tourist industry has helped the employment problem enormously. — Financial Times News-Features.



Water-skiing off the white beaches of Mauritius: tourism is a big earner.



1980 → 1990

8/9/80
Hunger (2)

strike *SMR*

The Star's Africa News
Service

PORT LOUIS — Thirteen members of the General Workers' Federation — including the parliamentary opposition leader, Mr Paul Berenger — have launched a hunger strike in Mauritius in protest against lack of Government action in re-employing workers dismissed after a previous strike.

Mr Berenger said at a public meeting at the weekend that they would end their strike once the workers had been re-employed.

They comprise provincial hospitals, homelands hospitals and licensed institutions.

Provincial Hospital Services

Dr Moll was the first specialist psychiatrist to practise in South Africa. He practised as a psychiatrist in Johannesburg from 1914. Dr A. Cox was the first psychiatrist to be appointed to a provincial post. In 1929 she was appointed honorary consultant psychiatrist to the Johannesburg General Hospital. There were neither psychiatric beds nor an outpatient department. To get round this limitation, she resigned her post in 1931.

Curfew after strike violence

kom 23/6/81

CASABLANCA. — The opposition Socialist Party said yesterday more than 100 people were killed in demonstrations during a general strike in Casablanca over the weekend.

A leader of the Union Socialiste Des Forces Populaires (USFP) said numerous demonstrators, wounded when security forces fired on them, had died in police stations.

The strike, called by the Socialists and its trade union organisation, was in protest against food price increases last month.

The Socialist spokesman said 26 wounded people had died in a police station where they were being held in an industrial suburb north of Casablanca.

There was no official confirmation of the casualty figures.

A doctor employed in one Casablanca hospital said at least 10 people with gunshot wounds died in the hospital over the weekend.

The Socialist spokesman said there was a virtual curfew in Casablanca on Sunday night.

Police and auxiliary forces patrolled the streets, armoured vehicles took up position in the city centre and road blocks were set up.

He said security forces fired on demonstrators, many of them young people, in several slum suburbs on Saturday and again on Sunday.

There were also demonstrations in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, on Sunday, but no violence was reported. — Sapa-Reuter.

In the Cape, the Somerset Hospital provided a neuropsychiatric service since 1923. When Grootte Schuur opened in 1938, 16 beds for neuropsychiatric patients were made available. An outpatients clinic was also run. The bulk of the cases utilising these services were neurology cases. In 1963 the departments of neurology and psychiatry were constituted as independent departments. It was at that time that the first Community Psychiatric Service from provincial hospitals began.

The services provided by the provincial hospitals and state mental hospitals were always independent of each other. During the investigatory stage of the Commission of Inquiry into the Mental Disorders Act and the reorganisation of Mental Health Services.

Graph II demonstrates the growing discrepancy between bed capacity and inpatient population from 1935 onwards. This discrepancy continued up until the 1970's with a brief respite in the immediate post-war years. It recurred from 1955 in a more acute form. From the early 1970's, both bed capacity and inpatient population fell absolutely, and began to approximate each other.

Graph I shows a progressive growth in numbers of mentally disordered. Graph II illustrates a growing inpatient population which begins to fall off after 1970, despite the growing number of mentally disordered persons.

A comparison of the actual number and inpatient at state hospitals number of disordered has always been number resident in state hospitals.

TABLE I

Year	No. Mentally Disordered (known)	No. Mentally Disordered a fraction of Population (1:x)	Mental Hospitals
1925	8 667	880	6 915
1935	12 805	750	11 726
1945	16 929	690	15 791
1955	19 839	700	13 919
1965	26 992	-	2 957
1976	38 044	690	16 851

This has meant that there were always numbers of disordered patients not resident in state hospitals, who have resided either at their own homes, at licensed institutions or at non-Government institutions. In 1925, over 80%, in 1955, over 90%, and in 1976, less than 50% of all mentally disordered patients were resident in state mental hospitals. The number of mentally ill patients accommodated in other 'Government' institutions has risen dramatically since 1965. Alternative institutions have developed since the early 1960's, particularly since 1970.

Ghana's workers flex their muscles

ACCRA — In Black Star Square — a mighty memorial of the Nkrumah era the size of a dozen football pitches or more — Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of Ghana's Provisional National Defence Council, shouts from the top of an armoured personnel carrier at a crowd tens of thousands strong.

"Hold on to this revolution," he says. "Hold it with your lives. The Ghana revolution of today is going to be even more difficult than the American or Russian revolutions."

An atmosphere close to hysteria greets Rawlings's arrival in the square, and Ghana's theme song of the moment — "The power belongs to the people forever" — rises from the swaying crowd.

There are shouts of "Revolution", "Power" "Kill the Traitors", and even "Kill the Ministers". Clouds of leaflets with the legend "Power to the People" are flung above the crowd.

The demonstration, organised by Ghana's trade unions, was the biggest since Flight Lieutenant Rawlings came to power nearly a year ago.

It was the clearest



Rawlings . . . changes at the top.

sign yet that the urban workers, who make up as much as 30 percent of Ghana's population, have (with a small group of leftwing intellectuals in the inner circle of government) become the pacesetters of Ghana's revolution.

Strikes and confrontations between workers and management, particularly in companies

with a foreign connection, have become a daily occurrence in Ghana, especially in the important industrial towns of Tema and Takoradi.

In the past few months the expectation of real power for the workers — generated by the revolutionary rhetoric — has become electric.

Strikes and confrontations with bosses have become a daily occurrence, reports Victoria Britain of The Guardian.

"There's been a twenty-fold leap in the working class consciousness in the past year," said one intellectual, surveying the crowd — still hungry for more after nearly three hours of speeches in the sun.

The gulf seems total between these people and the expatriate businessmen of many years' experience who still sit in their air-conditioned offices dismissing the revolution as "ridiculous" and talking of a return to "decent discipline."

"I like a worker who knows who is boss," said one.

The atmosphere in Accra — even before the attempted coup — has the same mood of expectation as in the early days of the revolution in Ethiopia.

The military here

still keep a low profile: central control is minimal. The Government speaks with many contradictory voices: committees mushroom and their authority rises and wanes unpredictably.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings's speech in Black Star Square and his many elliptical references to the events of October 29 and last week's attempted coup, indicate that some of these contradictions are about to be stamped on with even more changes in the six-man PNDC.

Rawlings did not reveal the names of those arrested after the coup attempt. But his strong condemnation of people who try to use tribalism to destroy the revolution, his references to necessary

as an attack on two of the most leftwing members of the PNDC.

They are Sergeant Aolga Akate-Pore and Mr Chris Atim.

For several months, at least since the June murders of three high court judges and a retired army officer, there have been growing rumblings in the local Press against "ultra-leftism."

Both Akate-Pore and Chris Atim come from northern Ghana, and both are responsible for people's defence committees in the army and civil life.

2/12/82

RBM 6384 (2)

Pickers fear machine

London Bureau

LONDON. Tens of thousands of workers on the big Kenyan estates in Kericho and Nandi have reacted in alarm to the presence of a giant tea-picking machine introduced on a big Mitchell Cotts estate.

More than 80 000 tea-pickers, a great many of them women, are in fear of losing their jobs.

The machine, made in Britain, can pluck more than 45 hectares a day, equivalent to the work done by 400 pick-

ers. It is operated by six workers in shifts of two at a time. It uses 200l of diesel to pluck every ten acres of tea, cheaper than paying 400 workers.

A fight is on against the machine by the Kenya Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union, which has vowed to battle against the introduction of labour-saving machines on the estates.

Official government policy is to maintain labour-intensive tea picking.

2,5% agricultural growth expected

BUS DAY
27/12/85

African economies hurt by falling prices

NAIROBI — African economies made small gains in agriculture, manufacturing and mining in 1985 but were hurt by weak demand and sharp falls in prices for their exports, reports the Economic Commission for Africa.

The report by the commission's executive secretary Adedeyo Adedeji was released in Addis Ababa yesterday.

With good rains over most of the continent, African agriculture, which a year ago was in the grip of one of the worst droughts this century, made a marked recovery, Adedeji said.

Agriculture production was expected to grow by more than 2,5%, compared with an average of 0,1% between 1980 and 1984, the report said.

According to the ECA, which said its estimates were corroborated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the 1985 crop would be a bumper one, in excess of 14-mil-

lion tons over the 1984 harvest.

Some countries, Zimbabwe and Kenya in particular, would be able to resume grain exports, Adedeji said.

The West African harvest would be 50% higher than in 1984 and even hard-hit countries like Sudan and Ethiopia expected record harvests, the ECA said.

The strong recovery of Africa's chief foreign exchange earners — coffee, cocoa, sugar, cotton, tea and tobacco — coincided with a sharp fall in the prices on the world market, the report said.

It was a dismal year for mineral-rich Africa's metal markets. Tin prices dropped by more than one half, leading to the collapse of the tin agreement; copper consumption was sluggish; uranium prices fell and a glut of nickel forced prices down by 30% in the closing months of the year.

The situation appeared to be better for bauxite, the ECA said, but a high level of stocks forced

limits on production.

Oil prices, which normally rise during the current winter season in the Northern Hemisphere, did just the reverse. The report blamed Opec's decision to lower prices, a move analysts believed would trigger a price war with non-Opec oil producers.

"The mining sector is not going to contribute much to economic recovery this year, and a mere 2,6% growth rate is forecast," the ECA said.

There was a 3,2% growth rate for the manufacturing sector, only slightly better than the 3% growth during 1980-84. But the report said an increasing shortage of foreign exchange meant many factories were unable to import raw materials.

"Thus, many factories had no choice but to close down while others were operating at uneconomic costs," the report said. — Sapa-AP.

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29/07/86 (2)

DAI

United OAU attacks Thatcher on South Africa

Dispatch Correspondent
ADDIS ABABA — Britain was in the dock when the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) began its three-day summit in Addis Ababa yesterday.

What has taken Western observers by surprise has not been the predictable African anger at the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher's refusal to impose sanctions against South

Africa but that the OAU has apparently reached a consensus for the first time.

Diplomats had confidently expected foreign ministers from the 50 OAU countries to water down any draft resolution which did anything other than offer wordy condemnation over South Africa.

At a special preliminary meeting on Saturday even moderate countries such as Kenya went along with the strongest statement yet to emerge from the OAU on South Africa.

The draft resolution called on Africa and other non-aligned countries to exert pressure on Britain by taking firm

measures such as sports boycotts, economic reprisals and a break in diplomatic links. It also condemned Britain, the United States, West Germany, France and Israel for what it called their "nuclear and economic collaboration" with South Africa.

Before the meeting, it was felt that the propo-

sal for reprisals against Britain would suffer the same fate as the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe's plan for a Pan-African military force which was effectively shelved last Thursday. But it seems Nigeria and Kenya argued strongly for its retention. And the fact that the resolution was adopted in its original

severing of diplomatic form meant all 50 member states had agreed on it.

Britain had expected, in the candid words of a British diplomat, a real "verbal bashing" over South Africa, but not that the OAU would go so far as calling for measures such as the

relations with Britain. Each country in Africa has a different economic and political interest in the South African question. Most of the economies of the Southern African countries on the so-called Front Line are interwoven with South Africa's. Usually a more pragmatic view is taken which commits member

states to little, positive action.

In real terms, even if the resolution is adopted by the heads of state, little is expected to come of it. With its crippling economic problems Africa simply does not have the muscle to take any meaningful economic reprisals against Britain. The concept of severing diplomatic relations is also a non-starter for many countries.

11/07/06 30/07/06

The OAU summit

BRITAIN was in the dock when the Organisation of African Unity began its three-day summit in Addis Ababa this week, and what has taken Western observers by surprise has not been the predictable African anger at Mrs Thatcher's refusal to impose sanctions against South Africa but that the OAU has apparently reached a consensus for the first time.

Ganging up on Britain brings consensus

16 280 2

LONDON BUREAU

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Boycotts

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adopted in its original form meant all 50 member states had agreed on it.

Britain had expected, in the candid words of a British diplomat, a real 'verbal bashing' over South Africa but not that the OAU would go so far as calling for measures such as the severing of diplomatic relations with Britain.

Each country in Africa has a different economic and political interest in the South African question. Most of the economies of the southern African countries on the so-called front line are interwoven with South Africa's. Usually a more pragmatic view is taken which commits member states to very little positive action.

In real terms, even if the resolution is adopted by the heads of State, little is expected to come of it. With its crippling economic problems Africa simply does not have the muscle to take any meaningful economic reprisals against Britain. The concept of severing diplomatic relations is also a non-starter for many countries. Most of Britain's £1 billion annual overseas aid goes to Africa. One diplomat commented wryly: 'They could

hardly bite off the hand that feeds them, could they?'

What the hard-line resolution has shown, however, is that the foreign ministers of the continent's 500 million people have united for the first time in their anger against Britain's refusal over sanctions. Some observers feel that the hostility and bitterness generated over this single issue could sweep away generations of friendly links and turn more countries towards the Soviet Union.

The foreign ministers' vote to postpone a decision on forming a Pan-African defence force was not surprising. They concluded that it would be too expensive and could provoke aggression from South Africa.

Ethiopia's Head of State, Mengistu Haile Mariam, devoted two thirds of his speech to the injustices of apartheid and in attacking Western countries for co-operating with Pretoria.

He accused the US, Britain and other 'reactionary Western powers' of joining an unholy alliance with Pretoria to promote their economic interests at the expense of human rights.

Col Mengistu singled out

Britain as a major villain because of its opposition to worldwide sanctions against South Africa.

'The negative stand of the British Government should itself be a target of further pressure. We Africans must seriously consider co-operating actively to mobilise our efforts,' he said.

President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, outgoing OAU chairman, called for greater pressure on Pretoria and its allies and stressed the need for massive financial support from the international community to salvage the African economy.

Delegates elected Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso as OAU chairman for 1987.

As is

Conference sources said the heads of State would probably adopt the ministers' recommendations without significant changes unless Nigeria made a last-ditch attempt to toughen up the proposals.

The other 36 resolutions, which cover subjects from the current plague of locusts to the status of the French-ruled Indian Ocean island of Mayotte, also were to remain in much their present form, leaving the African leaders few controversial subjects to thrash out yesterday and today.

The heads of State and government present are from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. — (Sapa-Reuter)

Launching of new federation

Sanetaw
12/4/88

(1) (2)

A NEW trade union federation representing about 700 000 transport workers in eight countries in southern sub-Africa has been launched following a workshop held in Swaziland.

Interim president of the Southern African Transport Unions Co-

By THEMBA MOLEFE

ordinating Council (Satucc), elected at the end of a five-day workshop in Mbabane over the Easter holiday is Mr Amos Mabuza, executive member of South Africa's Transport

and Allied Workers Union, a Nactu affiliate.

The workshop was officially opened by Swaziland Minister of Labour and Public Services, Senator B M Nsibandze, and closed by secretary general of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, Mr Jan Sithole.

The interim committee comprises Mr Mabuza, Mr Horacio Mula, Mozambique (first vice president); Mr Edwin Setlhare, Botswana (second vice president) and Mr Shaki Museve, Zimbabwe (secretary general).

The assistant general secretary is Mr Johannes Fakudze, Swaziland, and an additional member is Mr Pickett Matsamai of Lesotho.

Some of the recommendations and resolutions adopted at the workshop considered the growth and development of unions in the region and identified problems facing transport workers in Southern Africa as distabilisation, bandits in Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, health and safety, overworked drivers, ill-developed roads, the harassment of drivers at border posts, the refusal of multinational companies to adhere to parent company policies and the International Labour Organisation standards.

Satucc, which has been charged with drafting a constitution and the formation of the Southern African Transport Workers Federation, is to call a larger launch conference to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, not later than September 1988.

The Satucc workshop was sponsored by the African-American Labor Centre (AALC-AFL-CIO) with which it has pledged solidarity.

Unions gather for big indaba

MBABANE — Trade union delegates from 22 African countries including all SADCC states representing more than two million members of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, began a week-long meeting in the Swazi capital of Mbabane yesterday.

The head of the ICFTU Africa desk based in Brussels, Mr Andrew Kailembo, said in an interview with Sapa's correspondent after his arrival on Sunday, that the problems and rights of migrant workers in SADCC countries, trade union education, and training at all levels and the role of women and youth in national development, would feature among several papers to be presented and debated during the week.

He confirmed that neither South African trade unions nor any observers of "liberation" movements, were among the delegates. — Sapa.

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1971

Millions of Africans being trained for non-existent jobs

ARG. US 30/11/88
3
From ROBIN DREW
Argus Africa News Service

HARARE. — Millions of people in Africa are being trained for jobs which they will never be able to take up.

This depressing observation is made in a study of rural and urban training prepared for the African regional conference of the International Labour Office being held in Harare.

Instead of being trained for self-employment or self-improvement outside the wage sector, they are undergoing courses generally designed to prepare school-leavers for wage employment in the modern sector.

But the reality is that these jobs are and will continue to be extremely scarce.

Says the report: "Nine out of ten young people who enter the labour market must create their own employment in rural areas or in the informal sector. This fact seems to be completely disregarded by the school system.

"Youth is led to aspire to white-collar jobs. Most do not learn how to produce marketable goods and services or how to do this better than their parents, or how to diversify production so that under-employment does not grow worse."

Wage sector

Almost all African countries face an increasingly serious structural employment problem.

Round figures for the continent as a whole show that of a total labour force of 250-million, only 25-million will be employed in the modern wage sector by the end of the decade.

Of the population of 600-million, the rural population will constitute 360-million with four-million moving into the towns every year.

And every year 15-million more will come on to the labour market.

The report says that while some African countries have unemployment rates of up to 30 percent of the labour force, it is more realistic to speak of widespread under-employment as few can afford to be without income for any length of time.

Females will be ^{stc 5/10/89} out in force by ² the year 2000 ^(scribble)

GENEVA — An International Labor Organisation study forecast this week that more than a billion women will be economically active by the year 2000, with a growing majority taking jobs in services and industry.

The 127-page study estimated that in the Third World, the female share of the economically active population was expected to remain at 34 percent at the dawn of the next century, unchanged since 1950.

In Black Africa, the share may even decline from 42 to 37 percent if present trends continue, it said.

This compares with a projected rise in the women's share in the industrialised countries' work force from 37 to 41 percent during the five decades.

In the industrialised countries only 8 percent were still expected to do farm work in 2000, compared with 47 percent in 1950.

SAPA-AP

Biday 7/12/90

Informal sector 'will not solve Africa's problems'

SELF-employment in the informal sector can be only a partial solution to African countries' unemployment problems, says the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

This is because the sector's share of the total urban labour force is declining steadily, it says in a review of studies of the sector in Africa, outlined in an International Finance Corporation discussion paper.

It found working conditions in the sector were "extremely poor".

The traditional apprenticeship system did not facilitate evolution towards more efficient organisation of the enterprises.

Training was imparted on the job, and no theoretical backup on the use and maintenance of machines was given.

The typical formal sec-

SYLVIA DU PLESSIS

tor manager could not perform a correct cost-pricing exercise. Only a third of informal enterprises kept records of any kind. This resulted in an average enterprise life expectancy during the past decade of five years.

Furthermore, "the lack of accumulation of experience in specific activity has kept the quality of the products at relatively low levels".

These factors helped to explain the informal sector's declining share in the total urban labour force in African countries.

That share had dropped from 60% in the 1970s to 58% in 1988, and projections for the next decade reflected a further decline of the total urban labour force to 56% in 1990 and 51% in the year 2000.

Africa wipes away traces of communism

Blpau 27/12/90 (1) (2)

BRAZZAVILLE — Anyone wanting a souvenir of African Marxism had better hurry to Congo, where winds of change are blowing away traces of one of Africa's first communist regimes.

Signs saying "Fight the bourgeoisie" and Lenin posters are becoming a rarity. So are snippets of speeches by Congo's first Marxist president, the Guevara-like Marien Nguabi, which popped up on state radio for years after his assassination in 1977.

Many of the top leaders of the ruling Congolese Workers Party (PCT), founded by Nguabi in 1969, have defected.

Taking their cue from President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's announcement earlier this year that opposition parties would be legalised from January 1, they have formed their own political organisations or have openly challenged the government. In all, 22 parties were officially registered by yesterday.

At a congress earlier in the month the ruling party dumped Marxism, embraced a social-democratic platform and endorsed multiparty politics.

Disarray in the PCT may herald greater change in Congo than other African countries which this year converted from one-party to multiparty systems, diplomats and Congolese analysts say.

"I'd compare it to what's happening in Eastern Europe," a Western diplomat said.

"With the collapse of the one-party



Political protest simmered throughout Africa in 1990. Here jubilant youths run through the streets of Lusaka, celebrating what they believed to be the fall of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda in a coup attempt in June. Picture: REUTERS

system, the Congolese government as well as the ruling party have lost a great deal of legitimacy.

"There's no ideology or any popular appeal at all any more, yet the party's still there... There has been a tremendous erosion of authority and legitimacy."

Other African countries which made the switch this year have not faced such a severe test.

Gabon, paralysed by strikes before adopting multiparty rule, elected a new national assembly dominated by President Omar Bongo's party. Some

opposition leaders hardly bothered to campaign and were suspected of running to get government funds.

Ivory Coast's President Felix Houphouet-Boigny trounced his first challenger for the presidency and a month later his party swept the national assembly poll.

Benin adopted a new constitution providing for multiparty democracy in the formerly Marxist country, but analysts say President Mathieu Kerekou may well weather the changes.

Congo, according to Congolese as

well as Western analysts, may break the mould.

The list of deserters from the PCT reads like a who's who of the country's elite, including former central committee members, prime ministers and the head of Congo's labour confederation.

"We weren't born Marxist, but the party tried to remove all the religious ideas from our head, like wiping something clean with a sponge," said Jean-Michel Bokamba-Yanguouma, head of the Congolese Labour Confederation

(CSC) and until last month a PCT central committee member.

"Now we are doing the same with Marxism," said Bokamba-Yanguouma, who in September blocked a government attempt to impose new leadership on the union and annul the results of a union congress.

The showdown led to a general strike which all but shut down the country and which diplomats said proved the government's loss of control.

Since then, Congo has been hit by a wave of strikes.

IMF and World Bank missions due to visit Congo in October and November to negotiate new loan agreements postponed their visits.

"There wasn't anyone at the finance ministry," one banking source said. "They were down to 30% of normal staff."

Western diplomats and business executives who monitor Congolese politics say Sassou-Nguesso has staying power, despite the challenge facing him.

Before the PCT renounced its ruling party status, he got the PCT-dominated assembly to alter the constitution to let him serve until 1994.

But many Congolese object.

"Every time he goes out these days, people yell, 'Thief, thief,' a government worker said. "They want him to step down, but because of all the bad things he's done, he can't." — Sapa-Reuter.

AFRICA — LABOUR

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1992 → 1996

star 14/3/91

Strike turns Algiers into ghost town ⁽²⁾

ALGIERS — The Algerian capital resembled a ghost town yesterday as a 48-hour general strike called by the country's largest trade union entered its second day.

Traffic in the normally choked streets was at a minimum and crowded neighbourhoods appeared deserted. Police reported no incidents of violence.

Officials of the General Union of Algerian Workers said 90 percent of its members were obeying the strike to protest against government-imposed price rises in basic goods.

The union is objecting to price increases ordered by Premier Mouloud Hamrouche's government in line with economic reforms ordered by the International Monetary Fund. — Sapa-AP.

Moi blocks attempt to form opposition party

NAIROBI — Kenya yesterday declined to register an opposition political party launched by a former vice-president in defiance of the country's one-party constitution.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga (80) handed official application documents to government officials a month after announcing the launching of his National Democratic Party (NDP).

"I have summarily refused to register the proposed political party because such registration would be in contravention of section 2A of the constitution," Kenya's Registrar-General Joseph King'arui told Mr Odinga.

Mr Odinga, a staunch opponent of President Daniel arap Moi after serving as vice-president in the early 1960s under the late Jomo Kenyatta,



Daniel arap Moi . . .
opposed to change.

said the NDP favoured an open and fair system of government based on an independent judiciary.

President Moi has ruled a multiparty state, saying new parties would simply divide the country on tribal lines and create chaos. — Sapa-Reuters.

star 14/3/91

Debt crushing Africa ⁽²⁾ OAU head

STRASBOURG — Africa's \$202 billion (R525 billion) foreign debt burden would cause turmoil across the continent unless it was speedily relieved, predicted President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

In an address to the European Parliament in

Strasbourg yesterday, Mr Museveni said the debt amounted to three times Africa's exports and almost equalled its total output.

He said that three problems additional to debt had held Africa back — the cross-currents of the East-West conflict on the continent, too much reliance on

commodities and raw materials, and fragmented markets which had stifled intra-African trade.

Mr Museveni also called on the EC not to lift sanctions against South Africa until apartheid had been replaced by a one man, one vote system. — Financial Times News Service.

Algerian front calls off strike

ALGIERS, Algeria — The opposition Islamic Salvation Front yesterday called off its general strike.

The front said it was ending the strike, called two weeks ago to protest against the regime of President Chadli Bendjedid, as it had received assurances that presidential and legislative elections would be held by the end of the year.

Mr Chadli cancelled elections scheduled for June 25 after campaign violence partly inspired by the strike erupted this week, leaving 12 dead. AT 8/6/91

The promise of presidential elections this year means Mr Chadli could be ousted from the post he has held since 1979.

Five members of Algerian security forces were wounded yesterday in an exchange of fire with Muslim fundamentalists in Algiers. — Sapa-Reuter

Africa lambasted on human rights

8/0am 10/7/91 8/0am
GABORONE — An international conference on African trade unions and development heard stinging criticism yesterday of African leaders, and praise for SA's trade union movement.

Observers described the criticism of African governments as among the most trenchant yet delivered in public from an African platform.

SA and apartheid did not escape rebuke, but its trade unions were described as the source of hope to other countries.

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions general secretary John van der Veken told the first day of a joint ICFTU/Botswana Federation of Trade Unions conference on democracy, development and trade union rights that the denial of human rights had not been restricted to SA.

"In spite of restriction and immense repression, it was the independent trade union movement which brought about real change in SA.

"The trade unions have been the locomotive force of the anti-apartheid movement," he told about 140 delegates from African trade unions, the ILO and a number of European and American trade unions.

The confederation — which represents 144 affiliated organisations in 101 countries — maintained its hardline stance on sanctions and vowed to continue supporting the SA trade union movement.

Van der Veken said sanctions would remain in place until trade union bodies Nactu and Cosatu called for their lifting.

2
PATRICK BULGER

The conference is examining and hoping to strengthen the role of trade unions in what delegates have described as Africa's move towards democracy and development.

"The denial of human rights . . . has been commonplace in a large part of Africa. A whole range of basic rights has been systematically violated. The events of 1990 and 1991 show that the people of Africa are now asserting their rights to political choice," he said.

He said basic rights had been overlooked in the days of East/West rivalry. "African governments used the excuse of sovereignty and special circumstances."

There could be no development without democracy, he said, and the trade unions played a central role in this democratic process.

Trade unions 'ignored request on sanctions' (2)

12/7/91 PATRICK BULGER (15) (20)
GABORONE: SA trade unionists were told they had one month to help their US counterparts organise opposition to President George Bush's lifting of the CAAA.

Africa representative of the American Federation of Labour/Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFLCIO) Barbara Lomax told Cosatu and Nactu delegations at the International Confederation of Trade Unions (ICTU) conference in Gaborone they must suggest ways in which US workers could help overturn Bush's executive order.

Lomax said three weeks ago she prepared papers advising SA unions that Bush was about to lift sanctions, but that she had received no response from the counterparts.

The conference yesterday passed the Gaborone Declaration of Basic Rights which seeks to advance democracy in Africa through the trade union movement.

The conference concluded that a lack of democracy and human rights had been a major factor in setbacks in African development.

The conference brought together 140 delegates from trade unions, developmental bodies and international finance organisations. The Gaborone Declaration acknowledged Africa's "serious violation of human and trade union rights".

The Declaration stated, however, that developments in SA over the past two years gave hope that apartheid would soon be a thing of the past. It said that until a constitution guaranteeing one person one vote was in place, pressure and sanctions must be maintained.

It noted that 1990 and 1991 had seen major changes in African countries and said that trade unions had been the leading agents of change in some of these countries.

The conference called for free and regular elections, multi-party political systems, an end to discrimination, independent judiciaries and an adherence to ILO conventions.

Trade unions should be strengthened and allowed the right to bargain without government interference. They should be consulted on developmental issues.

Strike closes ⁽²⁾ airport in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO — The international airport serving the Malagasy capital has been closed for 48 hours by a countrywide strike organised by opposition groups, a diplomatic source said yesterday.

Antananarivo was calm yesterday, sources said, with few vehicles on the streets because of the closure of petrol stations.

Opposition groups said on Saturday that they planned to meet President Didier Ratsiraka today to urge him to step down.

At a French Embassy reception yesterday, charge d'affaires Henry Combes was faced with an official government delegation and another representing opposition groups.

The French envoy did not refer directly to the strike, but said he hoped the people of Madagascar would support democracy and national unity. — Sapa-Reuter.

Call for Vaal consumer boycott in retaliation for Sotsu killings

Thabo Leshilo ^{Star} 15/7/91

White businesses in the Vaal Triangle could soon be hit by a crippling consumer boycott in retaliation against the brutal murders of the family of Ernest Sotsu, a leading local ANC leader, recently.

The call for mass action, including a consumer boycott of white shops and a stayaway, was made at the funeral service of Constance Sotsu (56), her daughter Mami ki (33) and grandson Sabata (4) in Boipatong, near Vanderbijlpark, yesterday.

The three were shot dead by attackers while Mr Sotsu was away attending the ANC congress in Durban.

Speakers at the funeral claimed the attack was carried out by Inkatha members from a nearby Iscor Hostel and accused Iscor of harbouring killers.

Inkatha has categorically denied responsibility for the killings.

Vaal Civic Association leader Paul Sithole said the "carnage" could not have taken place if whites had not cut the township's electricity supply.

"They switched off our lights. They now go further by killing us. Let us hit them with a consumer boycott and a stayaway."

Demobilise

Maria Mojapelo, of the ANC Women's League, said all shopowners in the region would "pay dearly" for the lives of the slain people.

"We won't let the enemy demobilise us. We will make mass action the order of the day in the Vaal.

"We will wreck the economy of this region," she said.

ANC/SACP leader Ronnie Kasrils likened the battle between the residents and those responsible for the spate of killings in the Vaal to the Biblical battle between

David and Goliath.

"The Goliaths of today are being created by the police and the Government. The Goliaths are the AWB, Eugene Terre-Blanch, Rooi-doeke, Inkatha and vigilantes who live in this country," he said.

He reiterated the ANC/SACP call for the establishment of township defence units saying township people must arm themselves against their enemies.

The Government, he claimed, allowed Inkatha, warlords and vigilantes to carry weapons anywhere.

"The right to protect your life, your wife and your children is a sacred right," he said.

Mr Kasrils called on President de Klerk "to control his police, Rooi-doeke and his ally Buth-elezi" to ensure that conditions for free political activity existed if he wanted the process of peaceful negotiations to continue.

(2)
Island strike
Star 16/11/91
shuts airport

Madagascar's international airport has been closed temporarily as the country remains paralysed by a public-service strike.

A diplomatic source said yesterday that a coalition of 16 opposition groups demanding political reform was to meet President Ratsiraka.

Tens of thousands of people have been holding peaceful demonstrations for the past month in the capital of Antananarivo to demand that Mr Ratsiraka go. — Sapa-AP.

steps towards change in SA but says it does not believe they are yet irreversible.

There were violent strikes, detentions and assassinations of trade union leaders last year but the survey notes that, overall, trade unionists in SA fared better than some of their African counterparts. It says that "a major and widespread problem continues to be the severe restriction or outright prohibition on strikes in a large number of African countries. General strike bans are in force in Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Somalia and Sudan.

"Elsewhere, extremely complex procedural requirements, imposition of compulsory arbitration and the use of essential service provisions make legal stoppages impossible in practice." In SA, this affects public-sector workers, but emergency regulations in force in Zimbabwe until July last year gave the government power to declare any service essential and to prohibit strikes in that sector. In Zambia, the Industrial Relations Act allows employers to cancel union stop-order facilities with a month's notice.

"A further cause for serious concern is the restriction on international affiliation by trade unions" in countries such as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Swaziland. In Botswana, elected officials may not work full-time for unions.

In Nigeria, only one trade union centre is allowed. It is allowed to affiliate only to the

Organisation of African Trade Union Unity and the Organisation of Trade Unions for West Africa, "or any other international body approved by the military authorities."

Asian countries are loath to recognise more than one (usually State-controlled) union centre or federation. "Single trade union centres operate under the control of ruling communist parties in Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Laos, North Korea and Vietnam. Similar union subservience to the regimes in power exists in Iraq, Syria and Yemen."

The report notes that in several African countries trade unionists have been killed either in political violence (in Liberia and SA) or as a result of torture (in Sudan). Many have received excessive prison sentences for union activities.

Latin America remains the most dangerous place in the world to be a trade unionist. "The most alarming acts of anti-union repression occurred in countries with elected governments and in conditions of apparent impunity. Hired gunmen, death squads, paramilitary groups, police, army and security personnel have been free to kill and abduct workers because of their trade union activities in the sure knowledge that they are beyond the reach of justice."

Small wonder that many SA unionists are keen to cut their links with political parties (see page 41). ■

UNION RIGHTS

A DEADLY CALLING

FM 19/7/91.
Trade unionists in SA have more freedom than their counterparts in most countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. That's according to the world's biggest union grouping, the Belgium-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. In its annual survey the confederation welcomes

Civil services are bigger than ever

B/Day 25/7/91

GRETA STEYN

THE number of people employed in the governments of non-independent homelands rose to record levels this year despite official policies to reduce the size of the public sector.

Central Statistical Service (CSS) figures show employment in the six self-governing territories reached 198 447 in March, more than 2% higher than the previous year and almost 8% up on the same month in 1989.

The salary bill was R754m, almost 13% up on a year ago.

Development Bank GM Deon Richter said the civil service in the homelands functioned as an employment safety net in many cases.

The bank, in its financial adjustment programmes in these territories, hoped to curb the rapid growth in bureaucracy.

"But we do not expect to see an actual reduction in staff numbers, at least not in the near future."

Financial adjustment programmes have been implemented in only two of the six self-governing territories, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The bank expects to help implement further financial adjustment programmes in at least some of the other homelands during the course of its current financial year.

The TBVC states, the public sector employment figures of which are not included in these CSS statistics, are also in the process of financial adjustment.

Richter said "continuous unfinanced government deficits" often triggered the realisation that structural adjustment was needed.

In some cases, deficits of up to

45% of GDP were reported.

But he added that in some of these territories, government spending accounted for virtually the entire GDP.

Structural adjustment paid special attention to the role of the public sector, with emphasis on "making more effective and efficient use of scarce resources".

Budgeting procedures were overhauled with emphasis on longer term planning.

The efficient employment of large budget allocations was analysed in detail even when they seemed justified, as in the case of education.

Richter regarded the ad hoc nature of budgeting encountered in some homelands as a "legacy of apartheid".

Retard

He insisted the bank's credibility was not threatened by helping these governments.

Refusing to deal with them would retard the development process, he said.

"One of the reasons for the bank's involvement in the programmes is that they bring greater certainty that a continuous capacity will prevail for states to take up loans from funding agencies such as the bank," Richter said.

Development structures in the homelands were being rationalised, as there was a multitude of development corporations. In QwaQwa, for instance, there were five development corporations.

SHOCK DECLINE IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

THE social and economic status of women in Africa has suffered a sharp deterioration during the 80s, reports a major new United Nations study of the continent. Maternal mortality rates rose in Africa during the period and now stand at 600 per 100 000 live births compared with 75 per 100 000 in developed regions.

Nearly two-thirds of women on the continent are anaemic and five African countries have reported a decline in female life expectancy. Africa, together with Asia, still has the widest gap in literacy between males and females — in rural areas 94 percent of women cannot write.

The gap between hours worked per week by men and women is also the largest in the world — 12 to 13 hours.



AFRICA: THE

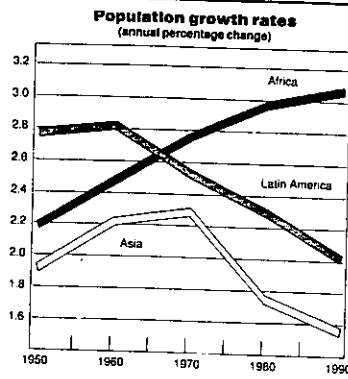
Si Times 8/19/91

AIDS IS MAJOR KILLER

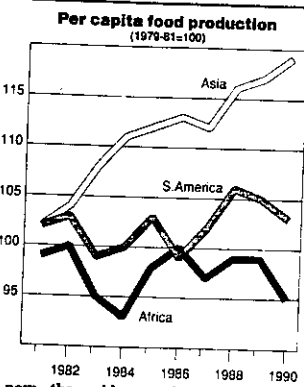
AIDS orphans are becoming a major problem in Africa.

A UN report on African economic recovery released this week estimates that six million people on the continent are now HIV-positive — half of them women. One-million adults are expected to have full-blown AIDS by next year.

Nearly 900 000 children have been born in the last five years with HIV infection and millions more are expected this decade.



The report noted that AIDS was attacking the economically active age group, mainly in the cities and towns, but also in rural



areas. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for women between 20-40 in some major cities of sub-Saharan Africa and the in-

cidence of AIDS orphans, without parents or welfare institutions to help them, is a growing problem on the continent.

SICK CONTINENT

By BRIAN POTTINGER

AFRICA is in a worse state now than it was five years ago — despite a \$128-billion (R364,8-billion) recovery programme supported by international agencies.

Per capita incomes and savings went down. Levels of illiteracy, mortality, malnutrition and debt went up, says a major new United Nations report on the continent.

The final appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development was released this week and is now being debated by an ad-hoc committee of the UN General Assembly.

Food

Although the report observes that many African countries made serious attempts at economic and political reform in the five-year period to 1990, often at high costs to themselves, the results were "poor and unsteady".

Food aid requirements by the 45 countries in the programme increased by 45 percent during the five-year period while real gross domestic product grew by an unsatisfactory 2,3 percent.

Per capita GDP fell an average of 0,7 percent during the same period, gross

MILLIONS JOBLESS

UNEMPLOYMENT on the African continent has leapt dramatically. A UN report on Africa finds that there were 30 million more under-employed people last year than five years ago. Unemployment increased by an average 10 percent in the last five years.

By 1990, unemployment affected more than 30-million Africans while severe under-employment another 90 million.

Real wages suffered a drastic decline — in some countries it was as steep as 75-80 percent.

domestic savings grew at a slower rate during the five-year period of the programme compared to the previous five years while the annual rate of inflation was 18 percent compared to 16 percent in the previous period.

Total government spending on education dropped from six percent in 1985 to five percent in 1990 and on health spending from 15 percent to 11 percent in the same period.

Enrolment in primary schools fell from 77 percent of eligible children in 1980 to 70 percent in 1990. Survival rates in the schools also plummeted.

Illiteracy rates were brought down from 59,1 percent in 1985 to 52,7 percent in 1990 but, observed the report, the absolute number of illiterate people increased from 133,6-million people to 138,8-million in the same period. Hunger was widespread.

By 1989 there were 150-million severely under-nourished people in Africa — 70-million more than in the mid-1970s.

The report says: "In 1990, an estimated 26,6 percent of Africa's children were underweight, 53,3 percent were stunted and 10,2 percent were wasting."

The infant mortality rate, despite major efforts by the UN agencies, remained constant during the five-year period at 182 per 1 000 — the highest in the world. The incidence of AIDS soared and unemployment increased at a rate of 10 percent a year.

Desperately needed skills also fled the continent — between 50 000 and 60 000 professionals left for overseas.

The recovery programme was started in 1986 to put the continent on the road to sustainable economic growth. Full implementation of the programme, estimated the African participants, would take \$128-billion of which \$46-billion (R131,1-billion) would come from external sources.

Africa, however, had not been able to keep up its pledge — largely because the continent lost nearly \$50-billion (R142,5-billion) in export earnings because of the plunging value of international commodity prices during the five years

of the programme. Foreign aid also fell far short of the target.

"Consequently, there was scarcely any change for the better in the structures of the African economies during the period of the programme," says the report.

"The recurrence of drought in many parts of Africa, political instability, civil strife, military conflicts, weak institutions and often less-than-effective policies to mobilise and utilise domestic resources continued to be both cause and consequence of the poor economic performance of most countries.

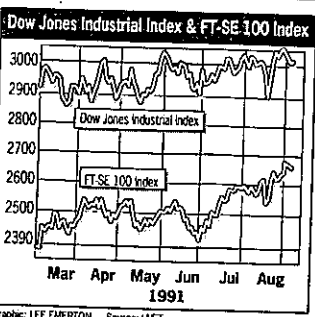
Urgent

"The situation of Africa is as precarious today as it was prior to the programme.

"There remains an urgent need for a major drive by African countries to reverse the socio-economic deterioration and put the continent on the path to sustained growth and development."

For Africa to survive, said the report, it will need \$30-billion (R85,5-billion) a year in aid — current levels are half that.

The report also urges substantial debt write-offs or donor sponsorships to reduce the continent's \$270-billion (R769,5-billion) debt burden.



FRIDAY'S DJ II CLOSE 3011,63

FRIDAY'S FT-SE 100 CLOSE 2667,4

FRIDAY'S NEW YORK GOLD CLOSE \$349,55

YESTERDAY'S HONG KONG GOLD CLOSE \$349,05

Graphic: LEE EMBERTON Source: I-NET

Southern Africa workers' charter set to be ratified

By Ferial Haffajee

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions' national campaigns committee will this weekend ratify a charter of worker rights aimed at strengthening organised labour throughout the southern African region.

The Social Charter of Fundamental Rights of Workers in Southern Africa was drawn up at a conference in Malawi in August this year and sources expect that it will be ratified in February next year at a meeting of the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference (SADCC).

Drawing extensively on Cosatu thinking around its own workers' charter, it represents a transfusion of South African union militancy and experience into the weak and often oppressed unions of the Frontline states.

If SADCC countries ratify the charter, it will bind them to pass the charter's provisions into law. Its effectiveness will depend on a "supervisory procedure at regional level, implemented by a tripartite body, whereby complaints concerning violation of basic human and trade union rights can be reviewed, examined and the ensuing recommendations made public and enforced".

Tripartism is a key underlying principle of the charter, which was drawn up by Cosatu and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) in collaboration with the Southern African Trade Union co-ordinating Council (Satucc), a sub-structure of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity.

The charter also demands that signatories ratify and implement the relevant International Labour Organisation conventions and recommendations.

Satucc represents workers in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Representatives at the conference which drew up the charter said that it provided a framework for "active solidarity" and called on Cosatu to "take a leading role in the work of trade unions in our sub-region".

The charter, according to Cosatu international officer Mcebisi Msizi is essential because of the interdependence of regional states and the common problems facing workers in the different countries.

Among other things, it seeks to prevent multinationals "exploiting lower labour standards by moving their operations to countries where trade union rights are less respected and labour is cheaper".

The charter incorporates a comprehensive set of basic trade union rights, including the independence of unions from governing parties, the right to strike and to freedom of association. It also calls for the establishment of independent labour and industrial courts and the right to negotiation for workers in the case of "collective redundancies and dismissals".

Taking account of the widespread use of migrant labour in the region, the charter affirms the freedom of movement, residence and employment of migrant workers. It also demands family housing for migrants, to enable them to live with their families.

Aids will 'wipe out' Africa's small elite

Sowden 20/12/91

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THE Aids epidemic sweeping Africa is thinning the already sparse ranks of the continent's elite - the skilled, educated people who keep countries running.

Scientists say the deadly disease could kill 20 percent of Africa's work force in the next five years and that a disproportionate number will be from the small pool of managers, civil servants, teachers and other skilled people.

Many African nations already are desperately short of skilled workers to keep their economies and vital services running.

The plague of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome could set those

countries back decades, scientists say.

"We need to know what the loss in nurses and doctors is going to mean in your countries, as well as educators and other professionals," Dr Michael Merson told a conference in Namibia.

Behaviour

"We're talking about the loss of elites in the urban work force," said Merson, an official of the World Health Organisation's Aids programme.

Health workers say members of the urban elite are disproportionately affected by Aids for many reasons, including greater wealth, numerous sexual contacts and reluctance

to change their behaviour.

It is common for African men with important positions or good jobs to have many sexual relationships as a demonstration of their wealth and standing, health workers say. Such men often have more than one wife, plus mistresses and frequent casual sex.

The elite, with their greater wealth, also hire prostitutes more often. Prostitutes are a common part of African life and health workers say they are major carriers of Aids.

Poor men are less likely to have numerous sexual relations and consequently less likely to contract and spread the Aids virus, the health officials said.

Elite Africans "are being hard hit by Aids because of their affluence," said Samuel Lewis of Kenya's Aids Control Programme.

Succumbing

"They occupy the top positions and tend to use their seniority to coerce women, going from one to another."

Many people who should be leading the fight against Aids ignore it and are succumbing at a quicker rate than other groups, scientists say. No figures are available on how many skilled Africans have Aids.

Specialists in the disease say even some health workers in travelling Aids education programmes spread the virus because they refuse to use condoms and have many sexual contacts as they tour villages.

Many among the elite do not want to limit sexual contacts or acknowledge the danger of Aids, they say.

A study by the South African Institute of Race Relations said polls indicated many Africans regard Aids as a "white man's disease" and refuse to believe it threatens

them.

Many students, the next generation of skilled workers, see Aids as a white plot to reduce growth in the black population by promoting condoms, the study reported.

"The indirect costs of the epidemic - the loss of many valuable years of often highly trained labour - clearly depend in some measure on how the educated elites behave," said RW Johnson, a South African writer on Aids.

Even to those who understand the threat, Aids does not seem so great a danger in a continent wracked by war, political chaos and famine, the specialists say.

Persuade

"Given political unrest and poor socio-economic conditions, it is difficult to persuade people to alter their sexual behaviour - to prevent them acquiring a disease which initially has no symptoms, and from which they may not die for over a decade," said Robin Hamilton of the Institute of Race Relations.

Aids could claim 20 million lives in Africa by the year 2000 and account for 60 percent of the world's cases, the World Health Organisation projects. Doctors cite various reasons for the Aids plague, ranging from promiscuity to poor medical services.

In Africa Aids is primarily - transmitted heterosexually and as many women are infected as men.

Pearl Nwashili, an Aids worker in Nigeria, said the disease could destroy the progress African nations have made in recent decades.

"All the development activities we have achieved so far will be wiped out with the loss of the bulk of the sexually active work force," she said. "How do we replace them?" - Sapa-AP.

Common regional labour law sought

MOVES to transform the entire southern African region into a cohesive economic community should include a programme to create a common labour law system.

This is the view of UCT labour law unit researcher David Woolfrey, who believes a "harmonised and enlightened" labour system is essential to balanced and equitable economic development.

Writing in the *Industrial Law Journal*, Woolfrey said investors had to contend with an industrial relations environment that varied considerably from country to country.

"Transnational" investors in southern Africa faced a multiplicity of labour law systems," he said.

"Migrant workers shed rights and obligations, and acquire new ones, as they move across national frontiers."

Woolfrey said the need for labour law harmonisation was possibly more pressing in southern Africa than it had been in Europe because sharp disparities in wage levels and general conditions of service would increase the temptation for "social

SUSAN RUSSELL

dumping" as countries competed for scarce foreign investments.

"Those countries with a high rate of unionisation and well-developed labour law systems may find themselves outbid in the market for capital by those offering a haven from labour strife and a relatively cheap supply of labour," he said.

The approximation of labour standards, Woolfrey said, would go a long way towards averting this process.

Basic

"Investors will not be able to shop around for the most docile and legally handicapped work-forces.

"Workers will not have to move in search of basic minimum working conditions and organisational rights."

Opposition to a harmonised labour law system was likely, though, he added, because the typical Third World problems of poverty, high in-

flation, unemployment and lack of technology and skills meant a high premium was placed on employment creation and economic growth.

"Inevitably, pressures for economic deregulation and the provision of investment incentives in the form of cheap labour, a union-free environment, will run counter to any calls for labour law harmonisation."

But Woolfrey stressed that an enlightened labour system was essential and would promote industrial democracy thus contributing to overall social consensus and stability.

"The SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union has already initiated demands for regional wage bargaining and has formed alliances with unions in Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland".

Those interested in promoting sound industrial relations policies and practices in southern Africa, Woolfrey said, should do everything within their power to ensure labour issues were placed squarely on the agenda of current regional political and economic planning.

THE author of a recent article in the Industrial Law Journal advocated a common labour law system for southern Africa (Business Day, January 9). The same article referred to an SA trade union engaging in regional wage bargaining and forming alliances with unions in Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland.

The implication is that a common labour law system and regional union activities are one and the same thing, which they are not. It is possible to find merit in the argument that disparity in protective labour legislation should be reduced to the minimum, but there are dangers for the region in a monolithic trade union movement.

The primary social and political obligation in Africa today is to accord proper recognition to the fact that the wages sector — the trade unionists — constitute what Marxists call the "labour aristocracy". They are, already, a privileged elite in each of the countries of the region. Recent figures suggest that only one in 12 matriculants is likely to find a niche in the workforce and that, generally, there are eight to 10 applicants for every vacancy.

The wages sector constitutes a small minority; the unemployed, the underemployed, the subsistence farmer and the informal sector are the vast majority, a position which will worsen, progressively, as popu-

lations continue to grow, AIDS notwithstanding.

It is a dangerous fallacy, in those circumstances, to suggest that social consensus and stability will follow in the train of "social democracy". Social democracy will benefit the minority who have already democratised their salaries and increased the gap between themselves and the have-nots, those whose earnings are already protected by joint negotiation, labour tribunals and minimum wage regulations and whose working conditions are protected by complex legislation, enforced by the taxpayer through the ministries and departments of labour.

Further protection for the already privileged would outrage the have-nots and it would not be difficult to imagine the repercussions. The author would probably deny that he is advocating a closed shop for southern Africa's wage sector, but that would be the outcome if his proposals were put into effect.

His concerns are clear when he writes: "Those countries with a high rate of unionisation and well-developed labour law systems may find themselves outbid in the market for capital." What it amounts to is a tacit

No room for labour monolith

B/Day 29/1/92

PETER DODDS

B/Day 29/1/92

admission that the "high rate of unionisation" has priced the SA employee out of the regional market, and only by extending the tentacles of local unionism to the rest of the region can local competition be eliminated.

There is no apparent reference to productivity. If all employees are equally productive in the same market there is logic in advocating common wage rates, but they are not, and the market place is different.

A monolithic union movement in the southern region would have the capacity to safeguard its members' interests to a degree well beyond the demands of equity but, in the foreseeable future, there is little likelihood of its membership growing. Even if it did, it would not be sufficient to reduce materially the pool of unemployed.

Population numbers will increase, and the wage-earning minority will become smaller in proportion to those without a finger on whatever

economic cake is available to be shared.

"Methinks he doth protest too much" is probably a suitable response to the author's arguments. What started off as a reasonably laudable proposal that disparities in labour law in the region be reduced ended up as a motion that it could be accompanied equitably by a common approach to employee organisation and representation.

The former had a measure of common sense in its favour; the latter is neither economic nor moral. It is not beyond the realm of fantasy that the author was musing on other uses to which a monolithic regional union structure could be put. Ministers at the Southern Africa Labour Commission meetings have always agreed that in many social and economic spheres they have common cause, but they stop well short of surrendering sovereignty in matters of wages.

Whose system of labour law and industrial relations is being held up as the paradigm? Are SA industrial relations the yardstick for regional industrial democracy, or are they simply a slightly more sophisticated version of the political phenomenon which those who have spent time in

Africa to the north will have experienced in the 1950s?

Big Brotherism is out of date. This is particularly relevant in the light of the author's comment: "Investors will not be able to shop around for the most docile and legally handi-capped work force." What the author is saying is that investors will have no choice; they will have to accept whatever the monolith offers, which is not much of an option.

Instead of southern Africa being a stimulating, colourful and competitive free market, it would be a dull grey area, akin to Eastern Europe and equally unattractive.

The reality is that productivity in SA must be raised as dramatically as the rise in wage rates over the past two years. To be competitive in first world manufacturing markets, local labour costs and productivity levels must be on a par which, currently, they are not.

Foreign investors are not likely to be attracted to a situation where wage levels have little link with economic reality. Equally, they are not likely to swarm into a regional closed shop where union hegemony — rather than the imperatives of high productivity, industrial calm and economic earnings — is paramount.

□ Dodds is a former director of the Swaziland Federation of Employers.

AIDS epidemic likely to hit African copper supplies

STAR 29/1/92

The Aids epidemic will make a gradual, but unavoidable, impact on copper mining in Zaire and Zambia, two of the world's biggest producers of the metal, suggests the Economist Intelligence Unit in a special report today.

In an otherwise fairly optimistic view of world copper consumption, demand and prices it says: "Essentially, the danger is that skilled workers, supervisors and managers will die of aids faster than replacement can be trained.

"The result will be not a sudden collapse in mine output. Rather there will be a slow but steady increase in the incidence of breakdowns, accidents, delays and misjudgements, and output will suffer."

The report shows that copper mine production in the two countries peaked at 1.2 million tons in 1974 and gradually fell to 850 000 tons in 1990. The EIU sees their combined output falling to 600 000 tons by 1993 before recovering a little in the following three years.

Mr Peter Parkinson, author of the report, says that transport systems in the African copper belt will always be precarious and will also be affected by the aids epidemic. So the amount of copper in the "pipeline" will tend to increase.

The report points out that Indonesia is emerging to take up some of the slack caused by Africa's problems and is becoming a "sizeable low-cost producer". Between 1990 and

1996 the EIU forecasts Indonesia's copper output will jump by 85 percent to 315 000 tons.

Mr Parkinson suggests copper companies will take a lesson from their precious metal counterparts and in future attempt to stabilise revenue through long-term forward sales and linked loan techniques.

"This may lead to downward pressure on prices, as has happened with gold and silver, and hence to lower profits and/or continued efforts to reduce costs.

"In the shorter run this will be of most benefit to the more efficient producers; in the longer run it will be of greater benefit to those with higher ore grades".— Financial Times.

Western World Refined Copper ('000 tons)

	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991(e)	1991(a)
Production	10,390	10,010	9,530	9,075	8,890	8,530	8,460
Consumption	10,520	10,250	9,840	9,360	8,985	8,810	8,742
Balance	- 130	- 240	- 310	- 285	- 95	- 280	- 282
Net imports	190	180	325	320	310	300	236
Stock change†	+ 60	- 60	+ 15	+ 35	+ 215	+ 20	- 46
Reported stocks	973	913	973	958	923	708	688
Price (US cents/lb) §	110	125	120	105	97	105	120

Source: EIU (a) actual. (e) estimated. * from centrally planned economies. † apparent. § dollar equivalent of LME cash settlement price.

Driven south by drought and war

21/2-27/2/92

There are new immigrants from Africa; not only manual workers, but also skilled specialists.

By HUBERT MATLOU

OVER the past few decades, thousands of Africans from the front-line states flocked to South Africa to sell their labour. They probably hoped to emerge with a nugget or two from the gold mines around Johannesburg.

Today, the diaspora has assumed a different shape: although there are still manual workers crossing the border, there are also many people coming south to sell and buy, to study or to look for jobs with lucrative benefits.

Acquisition of the required documents for staying and working in South Africa is no longer seen as essential by many temporary — or permanent — African immigrants forced to migrate as a result of civil strife, drought and mass unemployment in their countries.

A short case study of people from southern and west Africa provides a multi-coloured picture of their plight.

MOZAMBIQUE
Mozambican immigrants have a trade of their own, say township residents: mending shoes on street corners. Joseph Timani (33) works every day under the same tree, industriously lessening the load from a supermarket trolley full of worn shoes.

It was this trade which made



them vulnerable to capture for a R50 reward paid to any local resident reporting the presence of an illegal Mozambican to a police station. "But these days things have eased a bit. Police are no longer after us," he said.

Like his fellow countrymen, he found his way into South Africa by crossing the electrified border fence after Renamo attacks on civilians escalated in the early 1980s. He was in search of peace and a better way of life.

Immediately after setting his foot on the other side of the fence, in 1982, he herded cattle for a white farmer in Komatipoort in exchange for accommodation. "I had no option but to settle for this type of deal, considering that I was illegal. I couldn't dare query my pay without risking deportation."

Timani experienced similar problems when he was underpaid by the building contractors who

gave him work. This led him to learn shoe-making skills from fellow immigrants who were already practising the trade.

Once he was trained, he left his wife and children in a house in Malelane and came to Johannesburg. If you don't find a job in Johannesburg, you can still find a way to make a living — so goes the myth for thousands of Mozambicans.

Initial interaction with local residents was uncomfortable, as it usually is for outsiders coming to Johannesburg. "Initiation" into urban life often entails going through ordeals, ranging from paying "protection fees" to "tsotsis" hanging around the shops to being called Kwere-Kwere (a perjorative tag given anyone who comes from a less-sophisticated country).

"The only defence against this is to remain humble and not take such remarks seriously. It gradually

fades away as one gets integrated into the community," he said.

ZAIRE

Rioting by government troops, looting of shops and the closure of several industrial plants led Yves Lenga (26) to immigrate to South Africa to further his studies and, he hopes, to find a job.

On his arrival last September, Lenga — who comes from an affluent family — stayed at the Fontana Hotel in Hillbrow for a month before moving to a R500 flat with fellow Zairois in Berea. His parents arranged a visa, paid his rent and made him an allowance, for "I realised that the money I had saved was very little in terms of monetary exchanges and the inflation rate".

He graduated from the Institut Supérieure De Techniques in Kinshasa as an electrical engineer, and from 1988 he worked for a

road construction company for R400 a month.

He intends enrolling with the Witwatersrand Technikon to obtain a diploma which will enable him to be admitted to the University of Witwatersrand's Electrical Engineering Department.

Lenga said he had met about 30 Zairois in Johannesburg, but they haven't visited each other because "everyone is still battling to solve his problem".

Lenga and his friend, Ngwanza, visited discos and bars quite often, but it was at the Yeoville Church of Christ where they have found a warm reception. Ngwanza said that local men do not have time for a stranger, but women were different.

The two said they do not intend settling in South Africa, and will return home as soon as everything gets back to "normal".

Making work for themselves: At a market in Johannesburg, an immigrant from Zaire sells curios from his home country

Photo: GUY ADAMS

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21/2-27/2/92

More freedom for colleges

8/0 day 24/2/92

GERALD REILLY

INDIVIDUAL colleges of education would have greater managerial freedom and would be responsible for their own future direction, Education and Culture Minister Piet Marais said at the weekend.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new education college campus for further training in Pretoria, Marais said colleges would also determine their own admission policies.

Financing was still a problem area in the administration of colleges.

However, a set of approved treasury regulations would represent a dramatic step forward in the managerial autonomy of colleges.

Over the past four or five years there had been a decline in the number of students and this had led to rationalisation, loss of personnel and the closure of some institutions, he said.

Government appreciated the trauma associated with closures, but ahead was a new era in which colleges would flourish, Marais said.

He believed the remaining institu-

tions would be lean and fit enough to survive in the competitive environment ahead.

Marais said there was no doubt that the "vast task" of retraining teachers would have to be done extremely cost effectively.

"The need for teachers predicated teachers will have to be upgraded while they remain in their classrooms," he said.

Distance education formed at the very least a significant part of the solution, he added.

On the plan to scale down government control over schools — a reference to the model C school plan announced last week — Marais said the reduction of government spending would result in a less favourable personnel provision in the schools.

He did not doubt, however, that educators would maintain existing standards and ongoing upgrading would result in even greater professionalism.

Violence in township rages on

8/0 day 24/2/92

SEVERAL people died at the weekend in unabated violence around the country.

At least three people were killed in Empangeni's Esikhawini township on Saturday night, the ANC reported. KwaZulu police have confirmed the killings.

Earlier, all political meetings in Esikhawini had been banned, but the ANC said IFP supporters arrived in busloads.

KwaZulu police said the Inkatha meeting was a memorial service.

The ban on rallies came after 12 people were killed in Esikhawini last Sunday.

ANC northern Natal chairman Aaron Ndlovu has tried to get ANC president Nelson Mandela to ask for

police and army reinforcements.

In Soweto, gunmen wounded three policemen at Moroka police station on Friday night. The PAC military wing Apla admitted responsibility.

In Meadowlands, Soweto, attackers hurled a handgrenade at mourners on Saturday afternoon, killing a woman and wounding four others, police said. The ANC said 11 people were injured.

In Cape Town four men were shot dead and three injured in two separate incidents in Khayelitsha.

Police confirmed the deaths and said a criminal element seemed to be taking advantage of the taxi war.

In the nearby squatter settlement three alleged robbers shot and wounded three men. — Sapa.

African unions 'more free' now

2 DIRK HARTFORD

DEMOCRATISATION in Africa is transforming the nature of the trade union movement on the continent, according to the head of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions' (ICFTU's) Africa desk, Andrew Kailembo.

He said wherever there had been one-party structures governments had tried to control the trade union movement because they saw unions as capable of forming a strong opposition.

But with democratisation, African trade unions were "finding new independence and flourishing," he said.

The ICFTU, which represented 102-million unionists in 101 countries, had six new African affiliates and expected more. Zambian, Zimbabwean and Tanzanian trade unions were asserting themselves more vigorously now, he said.

On the downside, he said unions in some countries were fragmenting, often along party-political lines.

In Zaire there were 50 unions, while in Angola there were over 50 unions in Luanda alone.

Kailembo said disaffiliation from party politics and unity between workers was the way to build strong and independent union movements. He added new unions were joining the ICFTU from former Soviet countries, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Kailembo was part of a six-man ICFTU delegation which visited Namibia last week. The Namibian trade union federation NUNW recently disaffiliated from the World Federation of Trade Unions — the ICFTU's main international rival — but has not affiliated to the ICFTU.

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Unions meet in Venezuela

Sowetan 13/3/92

The ICFTU was formed in London in December 1949 to promote the interests of the working people throughout the world, and today represents about 110 million workers in 108 countries.

And as the 800 delegates sit in conference on Monday, they will be joined by representatives of more than 20 million workers from the former Eastern and Central European socialist bureaucracies that fell in the wake of *perestroika*.

The roots of the ICFTU can be traced from the need felt by emerging national unions in the 19th century for an international trade union movement.

After several efforts, trade unionists from many countries of the world met in 1919 to reconstitute the International Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU), which had been disbanded during World War I.

The IFTU remained in existence until 1945 when the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) was formed in Paris to unite workers worldwide.

Four years later, western unions walked out of the WFTU, accusing its leadership of being communist lackeys, and formed the ICFTU.

The two world organisations have existed side by side, with the WFTU

Democracy and the environment are to be the main thrust of the 15th congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions which starts in Caracas, Venezuela, on Monday. Our Pietersburg bureau chief, MATHATHA TSEDU, tells you of the organisation that plays a prominent role in the worker movement.

today lagging far behind as the collapse of the regimes in the Eastern Bloc have spawned new trade unions which are affiliating to the ICFTU in their droves.

But it has not been smooth sailing for the ICFTU either.

Seen largely by Third World countries and unions as an agent of capitalist expansionism through such organisations as the CIA, the ICFTU was regarded as a non-starter by many in Africa and other Latin and Asian countries.

The ICFTU was accused many instances of using cheque book trade unionism to buy its way into Third World countries with the aim of toppling socialist regimes in those countries.

It is not long ago that, even here, accepting money from the ICFTU was tantamount to treason.

To date, neither COSATU nor Nactu are affiliates of the ICFTU, although they and their affiliates continue to draw extensive assistance from the organisation.

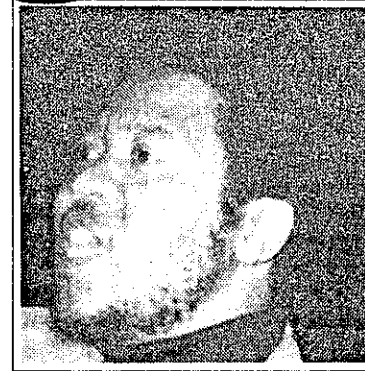
But it must be said to the credit of the

ICFTU that the organisation has pumped millions of rands into trade unions in this country and that, without the ICFTU support in black trade unionism could not have made the strides it has made.

From the first annual education grant of R28 000 given in 1974, the organisation today spends about R17 million a year on education, legal defence, leadership training and allied activities in South Africa alone.

The advent of the new South Africa has not, despite the rhetoric of reform and freedom around the corner, meant any lessening of demands on the ICFTU for assistance by local unions. Instead the demand has grown.

Among the delegates in Caracas will be Nactu first assistant general secretary Mr Mahlomola Skhosana, who will carry a message to the conference about the conditions of black workers and their continuing struggle to establish economic and industrial democracy. It is a message that fits into the congress theme, as delegates are going to grapple



MAHLOMOLA SKOSANA

with dictatorships in South America and the march to democracy throughout the world.

It is in South America where trade unionists still disappear without trace. But it is the environment issue that is sure to produce a lively debate.

Trade unions are trapped in the technological spiral, which not only reduces work but has spawned toxic wastes that threaten mankind.

Hence the slogan of sustainable technological development, which will not increase the ozone depletion and the CFC content in the air. How do you reduce carbon fumes in the air without affecting the number of cars on roads

and therefore the number of jobs in the motor assembly lines?

The congress is to work out worker representations to be discussed at the World Conference on the Environment to be held in June.

The tone of this section of the congress will be set by Norwegian Prime Minister, Mr Gro Harlep Brundtland.

The debt problem that afflicts Third World countries is also another problem on the agenda.

Unions from Africa and Latin America argue that the economies of their countries cannot grow in the face of debts to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB).

Many of these unions are faced with dwindling membership as workers are retrenched in large numbers in their countries due to IMF and WB decrees for structural adjustment programmes.

And as these leaders of the world's working class gather and decide the path that workers will tread in the next four years, millions of people will be watching to see if the debt and environmental issues can be resolved to facilitate the growth of democracy throughout the universe.

The conference starts on Monday and ends on March 24.



KAMUZU BANDA

Scribes' letter to Banda

South Africa 2/4/92
By MATMATHA TSEDU

A CONFERENCE of Southern African journalists has sent a letter of protest to Malawi leader Dr Kamuzu Banda over the continued detention without trial of a journalist.

The conference, convened by the Botswana Journalist Association (Boja) and held over five days in Gaborone last week, said in the letter that the detention of freelance writer Mr Simon Mhone since December last year had caused great concern.

"Mhone's detention without trial since December 1991 is an infringement of internationally recognised rights of journalists to freely execute their duties. This is a direct violation of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the letter stated.

The conference called on Banda to release Mhone without further delay. The conference was told that Mhone was a freelance journalist who was detained after filing a story for an international news agency.

Approved

The story had been approved by government censors beforehand, it was said.

It was also disclosed that in the heat of the rising tide of protests by Malawians who want the overthrow of the Banda dictatorship, many people had been herded into prisons where they were flogged and tortured and others killed.

The conference, which included participants from Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia and Uganda, also expressed alarm at Kenyan police harassment of journalists who were accused of "exaggerating" inter-tribal fights between the Kalenjins and Luos and Kikuyus on the other hand.

Boja chairman Mr Rampholo Molefe said after the conference that a protest note would also be sent to Kenya.

"We as African journalists are tired of looking on as our colleagues are brutalised by dictatorships. We are going to speak out against such abuses wherever they occur until this continent enjoys the kind of freedom enjoyed elsewhere in the world," he said.

Salaries scandal ⁽²⁾

swelam 10/4/92

YAOUNDE - Cameroon is paying 15 000 salaries to phantom civil servants who have either been dismissed, are on study leave, or are already on the pay roll.

The *Cameroon Tribune*, quoting a finance ministry spokesman, said some of the country's 180 000 civil servants were drawing double or even triple pay.

The government newspaper estimated that the swindle was costing the central African state R100 million a month - more than a third of its civil service wage bill. - *SA Press Association-Reuter*.

Civil servants strike ^{WIMAG}
PRESIDENT Andre Kolingba of the
Central African Republic has
announced that presidential and
parliamentary elections will be held
on October 25. At the same time civil
servants began a 10-day strike over
wages with backing from opposition
parties. — Sapa, AFP, Reuter (2)

Solve for 18/19/17

State workers in a frenzy

ACCRA - Striking civil servants demanding more pay and better working conditions smashed windows and electric bulbs and destroyed railings at the Finance and Economic Planning Ministry, the Ghana News Agency reported yesterday.

No arrests were made at Wednesday's demonstration in which 2 000 people wearing red arm and headbands set up a road block in front of the ministry and demanded to see the minister.

Africa needs

10-m new ⁽²⁾

jobs a year ^{stim 26/1/93}

HARARE — African countries will have to create 10 million jobs each year to absorb new entrants into the labour market in the 1990s.

Zimbabwe's minister of national employment creation and cooperatives, Didymus Mutasa, said this at a workshop in Harare yesterday.

He said the urban labour force in African economies would grow exponentially at an average rate of 5.4 percent.

14-million jobless in Africa

GENEVA — As the United States and much of Europe continue to wallow in recession, only Asia provides cheer for the world's gloomy jobless picture, says a UN report.

Africa, caught in a vicious downward spiral, is the worst off, with an unemployment rate in its cities of 15 to 20 percent, an estimated 14 million people out of work, according to the International Labor Organisation (ILO).

The African urban jobless figure is increasing by about 10 percent a year.

Rural Africans may have jobs, but their hard work earns many of them so little they might as well be jobless.

If the world's jobless are combined with people who work but earn less than poverty-level wages, some 600 to 700 million people in the global work force — a little over one-third — are unemployed or underemployed, says the Dutch economist Wouter

van Ginneken, editor of the ILO's annual World Labor Report.

The world's richest countries "are taking a long time to emerge from recession", the ILO says in its report. "Overall unemployment has risen yet again."

Gains offset

The US, Japan and some European countries reported an increased number of jobs in 1992, but these gains were offset by substantial job losses in Germany, Britain, Spain, Switzerland and Scandinavia.

The 24 wealthiest countries, which make up the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), alone reported unemployment of 8.2 percent, or 32.3 million people, in 1992, up from 7.4 percent the year before.

Service jobs, from fast-food restaurants to banks, are no

longer able to offset the losses in manufacturing, the report says.

Van Ginneken says no one has an accurate global jobless rate. But he estimates the world's unemployed number roughly 110 million — 5 million to 8 million more than in the previous year.

In Eastern Europe, jobs lost in the switch from communism rose to more than 4 million last March, the latest figure available.

The former republics of the Soviet Union reported a drop of only 2 percent in 1991, but the ILO report says this indicates that state-run industries are keeping people on the books who have nothing to do.

Latin America has made some progress from its severe economic problems of the mid-1980s. Inflation has dropped, economies are growing and investors are returning, but unemployment remains at around 8 percent. — Sapa-AP.

Survey of African employee benefits

CAPE TOWN — Old Mutual has prepared itself for the move by SA corporates into Africa by undertaking a major comparative survey of employee benefit schemes in 11 countries.

Old Mutual assistant GM Henk Beets said the aim of the survey was to enable the life assurer to provide a consultancy service for companies planning to set up operations in other African countries.

The completed survey — which covers Botswana, Egypt, Lesotho, Nigeria, Kenya, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia and SA — would be expanded to incorporate other African, and possibly European countries, and would be updated every two months to take account of new developments.

Beets said business decisions demanded a careful analysis of local conditions and arrangements, and the employment environment.

"In the case of employee benefits, it is crucial to have a thorough understanding of relevant legislation, employment practices, the investment environment and foreign exchange regulations. Only then can an effective and coherent employee benefits strategy be developed."

He said the survey would prove an invaluable guide to companies poised to expand into Africa, adding

that SA could learn valuable lessons from Africa in terms of social security, health care and housing systems. Systems specific to Third World conditions where the average income per capita was low had to be found.

Beets said it was more feasible to extend employee benefits in the context of an AIDS epidemic, as unlike individual life assurance products, rates were reassessed on an annual basis to reflect the claims experience.

Comparing the social security schemes in Kenya, Egypt and SA, the researchers found that in Kenya and Egypt national social security funds were funded by employers and employees whereas in SA the social old age pensions were funded from tax revenues. The benefits offered in Egypt and Kenya were far more comprehensive than in SA.

More emphasis was given in these African countries to private sector funding for social service benefits.

Beets said the advantage of a compulsory national contributory scheme was that it was a more explicit form of taxation than income tax and led to a greater sense of ownership and responsibility on the part of the contributor.

LINDA ENSOR

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SA bosses are back in favour

S Times [Buss] 2/15/93
2

AFRICAN states are snapping up South African executives for contract work.

Renwick Management Consultants managing director John Sheratt says that companies in Botswana, Eire, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Kenya are seeking people with technical and managerial skills for two to three years' work.

He says Angola tried to recruit South Africans until the civil war resumed.

F-E Corporate Services managing director Martin Wescott says the trend started about three years ago when South Africans became politically acceptable.

Until then, African states hired skilled staff from Canada, the UK, Australia and other countries.

Mr Wescott estimates that in countries such as Botswana about 10% of senior executives could be South African.

Many African companies prefer South African businessmen because they are "Africanised" — they are used to African culture, the climate and the conditions — and have industrial relations skills.

Mr Sheratt says: "SA executives are sought because it is cheaper and easier to recruit them here than in places outside Africa."

"When these countries hire someone on contract they have to pay a relocation allowance and foot the bill for the executive and his family to fly home once a year. They often have to pay for the education of the children, mostly in SA."

By TERRY BETTY

Mr Wescott says that because many African countries have large mining industries they need highly skilled mining managers, of which SA has many.

An African company is usually allowed to recruit expatriate workers only if it can prove that no indigenous skills are available. The usual intention is that the contract worker trains someone to do his job after his term expires.

Mr Sheratt says it is not always possible to train a replacement in only two or three years and contracts are often extended.

Sweetener

Contract work has become increasingly attractive for South African executives because employment opportunities here have shrunk drastically. The contract work often provides valuable experience.

Mr Wescott says the sweetener to attract executives is a large tax-free gratuity at the end of the contract. It is paid in a currency of the executive's choice.

Although the executive has to declare it to the Reserve Bank, the money is allowed to remain abroad.

Mr Wescott says that this type of work appeals to pioneering types. Many have no home base and move around the world from one contract to another.

Unions want more say in IMF reforms

W/Mart 30/4 - 6/5/13 (2)

By ANDREW MELDRUM: Harare

CAN Africa's trade unions help pull the continent out of its severe economic decline? A resounding "Yes" to that question was given in Harare last month where 150 union leaders from 40 African countries met European union leaders, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The free market structural adjustment programmes designed by the World Bank and the IMF have been embraced by 29 African countries and the challenge facing unions is to make sure they are at the cutting edge of economic reform.

South Africa is already negotiating with those powerful multilateral financial institutions and a local programme cannot be far off.

Somewhat surprisingly, unionists at the Harare meeting did not reject structural adjustment outright. Kenya, which recently suspended its structural adjustment programme, was not held up as a hero or a model for other African countries.

"I think most African unionists realise that (president Daniel arap) Moi pulled out of structural adjustment because it threatened his vested interests," said an African economist. "Most realise that it is a mistake that will cause more harm to the Kenyan working people."

Rather than debating the need for structural adjustment, the African labour leaders in Harare made suggestions as to how the economic programmes could be improved. They called for more direct involvement in the design and implementation of the painful economic measures.

"It's unfortunate that Ghana's structural adjustment programme does not have any trade union input. We would advise the government to slow down the pace of adjustment," said Ghana Trades Union Congress secretary general Christian Ageyi.

Ghana's structural adjustment began in 1983 and is held up by many as one of the more successful in Africa. "It is true that Ghana has achieved economic growth, but the working people are worse off," said Ageyi. "Public spending was reduced and many people, particularly in the civil service, were retrenched. A massive devaluation was carried out, reducing the cedi from two to the US dollar to 662 to the US dollar. This caused inflation and has made our cost of living very high. Poverty has increased."

The IMF-World Bank remedy has been a bit of a bitter pill to swallow. "There are few signs that structural adjustment programmes are bringing economic recovery in African countries where they are being implemented," concluded a comprehensive report by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

The report warns that continuing economic hardship may undermine Africa's fledgling democracies and result in a return of more authoritarian regimes.

SA no good for unionists

C/Press 915193

MALAWI and SA are the most dangerous countries for trade union and pro-democracy activists in southern Africa.

During a trade union conference held in Harare last month, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) submitted a report which cited trade union and human rights abuses in 27 African countries.

The report says innumerable cases of violation of human rights and victimisation and intimidation of trade unionists took place over the last four years.

On the African continent, the report says, SA, Malawi, Chad, Zaire and Togo are considered the most dangerous countries for trade union activists, who often lead pro-democracy movements. The document lists details of assassinations, torture and arrests.

According to statistics in the report, SA remains the most dangerous country. At least 25 labour activists were killed in political violence during the first six months of 1992.

Last February an ICFTU mission visited SA to investigate violence there. It concluded that the government was directly or indirectly responsible for most of the violence.

In Malawi, the gross violation of human rights and the systematic

suppression of the opposition by President Kamuzu Banda has drawn worldwide condemnation, particularly after the arrest in April last year of Chafukwa Chihana, secretary-general of the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordination Council.

Two weeks earlier, Banda had arrested eight Catholic bishops for openly campaigning for a return to democracy.

"His ministers had gone to the extent of threatening that all democracy supporters who dared return from exile would become meat for crocodiles," said union leaders.

At a pre-conference symposium, trade unionists said that the economic reform programmes prescribed for African countries by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank had not brought the intended economic recovery.

At least two-thirds of countries on the African continent have or are implementing World Bank and IMF-backed economic reforms.

Reviewing the situation in 29 African countries over the last 10 years, the report paints grim pictures of falling living standards, rising unemployment and bleak prospects for growth.

Africa's total foreign debt,

which stood at \$165 billion (R495 billion) in 1984, rose to \$237 billion (R711 billion) last year, with sub-Saharan Africa alone having a total external debt of \$172,6 billion (R517,8 billion) in 1991.

Unemployment levels reached worrying proportions, with annual growth rates of up to 10 percent between 1986 and 1990, compared with six percent in the 1970s. In urban areas, unemployment was running at 20 percent compared with 10 percent in the 1970s.

The informal sector, which accounts for about 70 percent of urban employment in sub-Saharan African countries, suffered terrible exploitation, and wretched working and living conditions.

The unionists blamed the failure of the "ill-defined" structural adjustment programmes on the absence of social dimension programmes and the lack of consultation with representatives of organisations such as trade unions.

"In the context of authoritarian rules, where those leaders claiming to support adjustment were the same whose mismanagement had caused the economic problems in the first place, it has been evident that adjustment was designed merely to buy time for unpopular rulers trying to cling to power," said the trade unionists.

African incomes shrink again

410 AM 13/5/93
ABIDJAN — African incomes shrank for the second year in a row in 1992, the African Development Bank said yesterday in a bleak report that offered no hope of speedy relief.

Countries that for more than a decade have imposed stringent economic reforms that targeted the poorest of the world's poor are looking now for ways to relieve their plight, said the bank's 1993 African development report.

Confronted by economic recession, huge debts and slumping prices for their commodities, most African governments bowed to pressures from the IMF and World Bank and imposed punishing reforms in the '80s.

But they did it grudgingly. Instead of cutting spending on bloated bureaucracies or on armies that might turn on them, governments hit at those with the least power to retaliate.

"Key social sector services, especially to the poor, often proved to be the softest targets for cuts," bank vice-president Ferhat Lounes of Algeria told a news confer-

ence to launch the report. (2)
Tanzania, a country that was deeply committed to providing social services, cut expenditure on education from 17.3% of the budget in 1972 to 7.2% in 1985.

Primary school enrollment, which had risen to nearly 100%, fell to 66% in 1988, the report said.

Similar erosion, which the report warned would dog long-term development, occurred across the continent.

Now, Tanzania is financing income-generating projects for vulnerable groups. Senegal has a retraining programme for workers laid off when unproductive state companies were shut down. Madagascar abolished a rice subsidy, devastating the urban poor, but now provides free rice to the destitute.

In many countries people revolted against the hardship. Their protests grew into demands for democracy that have brought down a few governments. There has been prolonged unrest and instability where military dictators refuse to surrender power, as in Zaire and Togo. — AP-DJ.

SA is facing a migration crisis

Sowetan 25/5/93

FOREIGN INFLUX Trend

contributes to unemployment and crime:

By Joe Latakomo, Argus Africa News Service

SOUTH Africa could be heading for a migration crisis unless steps are taken to deal with the influx of foreigners drawn to this country by the promise of a better life.

The influx, mainly from other African countries, has already resulted in increased unemployment, homelessness and crime.

At a recent seminar on migration, organised by the SA Institute of International Affairs, several participants observed that the problem was not being given priority attention by any of the political leaders.

According to George Orr, regional director of the Department of Home Affairs, the majority of illegal immigrants in this country are from Mozambique (even though most of these would qualify for refugee status in other countries), Zimbabwe and Lesotho and most of them live in squatter and informal settlements.

Orr told the seminar that South Africa was regarded "on a scale which cannot be explained rationally" as a place that promised hope for a better future. The number of legal immigrants from Africa was declining, he said, but the number of illegal aliens entering was increasing.

"Although SA, for various reasons, is prominent on the priority list for uprooted persons as the place of hope where they believe it is still possible to establish a future for themselves and their families, the very real potential danger that South African citizens may be swamped by such aliens cannot be ignored," he said.

In several countries in Africa professional salaries are low and this plays a major role in decisions to migrate. A civil engineer in Sierra Leone, for example, earns the equivalent of 25 US dollars a month, while a medical doctor in Ghana earns no more than 80 US dollars — which he can earn from one consultation in South Africa.

Orr said his department had had applications for residence from medical practitioners, chartered accountants, auditors, engineers, contract lawyers and businessmen. Many who come to South Africa to study did not return to their home countries when they completed their studies.

Sent back

Last week the Minister of Home Affairs, Danie Schutte, disclosed that 82 575 people had been sent back to their own countries in 1992. Most of these, 61 200, were sent back to Mozambique. A further 12 000 were repatriated to Zimbabwe, 6 200 to Lesotho and 3 000 to other countries.

For decades, South Africa encouraged the immigration of skilled whites while the system of Bantu Education ensured that they were vital if the economy was to grow. But as the country moves to a new political dispensation, it is ironic that the men and women who helped create the country's wealth, the foreign migrants, may be the ones to lose out most in the short term.

Africa lost an estimated 27 000 highly skilled people to developed countries between 1960 and 1975, and this figure increased to 40 000 in 1975 to 1984. By 1987, nearly 70 000 or 30 percent of the skills stock of sub-Saharan Africa had been lost. Few of these countries have policies to control the emigration, although some have expressed concern at the brain drain when their skills are needed in their home countries. But the political changes in South Africa might provide opportunities for those who seek viable employment in an African environment.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus told the seminar that migration and refugee issues would have to be considered from a Southern African and not just a South African point of view. It was essential to consider the huge contribution migrants had made to the economies of both South Africa and their own countries, and also the consequences to countries like Lesotho of any policy regarding its citizens in South Africa.

In the light of massive unemployment, there was an urgent need to look at whether to open the doors to large numbers of skilled people. These might come from as far north as Nigeria and often were keen to work in rural areas spurned by local graduates. Although technically trained people were needed it should be a case of South Africans first, Niehaus said.

Peter Vale and Hussein Solomon from the Centre for Southern African studies at the University of the Western Cape said 4.1 million people in South Africa had been displaced by drought, the migrant labour system, forced removals, and the violence in Natal.

However, South Africa's inability to produce enough



SURVIVAL ... Refugees from Mozambique gather water at communal taps at Glyanl, Northern Transvaal.

skilled people might require that it continue importing skills, which would probably come from other African countries. But if such selective labour immigration was accepted, what impact would it have on the sending countries' resources?

In the short term, according to the International Labour Organisation, labour emigration can relieve unemployment in the sending countries, earn valuable foreign exchange and impart skills. But sub-Saharan Africa will need to generate up to 7.5 million jobs a year merely to stabilise the employment situation. While the labour force doubles every 25 years, the economy of the region must treble every 23 years to be able to absorb those workers, says the ILO.

South Africa's labour force is expected to grow from less than 10 million in 1980 to 16 million in the year 2000 and 21 million in 2010. Proportionally similar growth patterns are forecast for neighbouring countries.

South Africa has tried to keep migrants

out. Mozambican refugees, for instance, are considered to be "illegal immigrants" and are repatriated at the rate of 3 000 a week. But border patrols, electric fences, the danger of walking through the Kruger Park, and avoiding Renamo and Frelimo troops and minefields have failed to keep them out. But it is not from Africa only that there has been an increased flow of migrants. In 1990 only 19.6 percent of all immigrants came from Asia but in 1992 the figure increased by 78.9 percent to 34.6 percent of the total immigration figure. And these are those who are here legally. Thousands more arrived in the country on tourist visas and stayed on, eking out a living as street hawkers.

The answer may be a phased withdrawal of migrants or a negotiated migration of skilled people and the establishment of a regional labour commission. But whatever happens, the next government will have to deal with thousands of illegal people.

Muslims target lecturer in Egypt

W/M and 25/6-1/7/93
By DEBORAH PUGH: Cairo

AN Egyptian university lecturer, denied a full professorship in April because of Islamic fundamentalist opposition, is now being targeted by Islamist lawyers who are trying to have his marriage annulled on the grounds that he is an apostate.

If successful, the case has the potential to undermine the secular foundations of Egypt's legal system at a time when the country has been rocked by a wave of attacks by militants.

The case has been lodged in Egypt's civil court by a legal firm associated with the Muslim Brotherhood claiming to be protecting society's interests. In a dense legal document, Dr Nasr Hamid Abu Zeid, an associate professor of Arabic, is accused of apostasy on the basis of his academic writings on early Islamic jurisprudence.

The petition demands that his wife, Dr Ebtihal Younes, be separated from him by the court in order to protect the purity of Egypt's Muslim society.

Zeid believes he is being picked on in a campaign to intimidate liberal Muslims actively opposing the fundamentalists' attempts at gaining political power.

"It began when I would not quietly accept my failure to gain promotion, after it was blocked on non-academic grounds. That stirred up controversy as to whether Cairo University was a secular or religious institution. This court case is an attempt to support those who criticised my work by trying to convict me of apostasy and then destroy my marriage."

While Egypt is ostensibly a secular state, the late President Sadat endorsed the Sharia, traditional Islamic jurisprudence, as the main source of Egyptian law. As the fundamentalist movement has become bolder, Egyptian Islamists have attempted to extend the application of the Sharia, going well beyond what many consider to be in the spirit of Islam.

This is believed to be the first case in which a successful marriage is being questioned on the grounds of society's good, as interpreted by Egypt's growing band of Islamic fundamentalist lawyers.

Observers believe that the fact that the case has not been rejected out of hand is a reflection of the changing political climate and the influence of fundamentalism within the judicial system.

"For some years many Egyptian judges have been working in Saudi Arabia on secondment in return for large salaries and this has had an influence on their attitudes," said a high-ranking Egyptian lawyer.

The court has agreed to an adjournment until November 4 while the lawyers request a response from leading sheikhs associated with Al-Azhar University. Al-Azhar is the key institute of Islamic learning for Egypt and for all of Sunni Islam and has been widely criticised for encouraging extremism.

Last week, the judge presiding over the trial of the militants accused of the murder last June of Dr Ibrahim Fouda, an outspoken opponent of political Islam, agreed that the defence could call on Islamist sheikhs to testify whether or not his works were anti-Islamic.

Meanwhile, Younes is trying to come to terms with the possibility of having to leave her husband or be condemned as an adulteress — the punishment for which is death by stoning.

A charge of apostasy could also be used as an excuse by extremists to assassinate her husband. — The Guardian News Service

From empty slogans to filling bellies

2 ARLT 11/12/93

LOUISE MARSLAND

Weekend Argus Reporter

WHEN Mpho Mashinini was a little boy he and his 10 brothers and twin sisters sometimes went to bed hungry in their Soweto home.

But what they lacked in sustenance their parents made up for in love and strong family values.

It is these values that have shaped Mr Mashinini, the man who this week was appointed acting successor to retiring Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman. Her post will be advertised in January.

In a neat office hung with a picture of Martin Luther King and stark black-and-white photographs of those assisted by Operation Hunger, the 35-year-old Mr Mashinini is there to help as many people as he can.

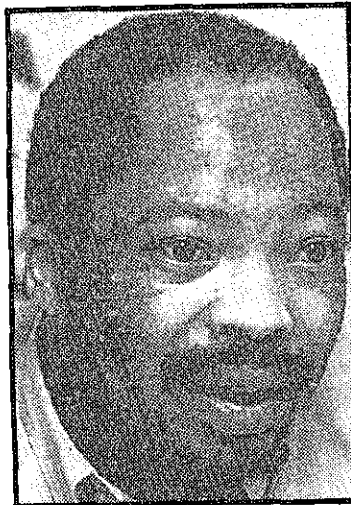
"I came from a large, poor family. We went to bed without food and went to school without pocket money. But I was lucky, I have very strong parents who sacrificed a lot for us."

Mr Mashinini is a card-carrying member of the ANC and his roots lie deep in the political struggle. His late brother Tsietsi, a 1976 student leader, was one of the most wanted activists in South Africa, with a price of R500 on his head when he fled into exile.

Mr Mashinini himself was detained without trial six times, spending a total of four years in prison, after he got involved in student politics and the United Democratic Front (UDF).

The turning point in his life

■ Acting Operation Hunger head Mpho Mashinini, a former political activist, tells how he ditched the rhetoric for a role in which he could bring about meaningful change in the lives of people in near hopeless situations.



Mpho Mashinini

came during a spell in solitary confinement when he was 26. "It hit me that I was shouting slogans about justice and equality and I decided to practise what I had been shouting about. I wanted to be a part of a new South Africa ... but after another 12 months in jail I had nothing to show."

Mr Mashinini met Mrs Perlman through the SA Institute for Race Relations detainees' support programme. He started off doing part-time research for Operation Hunger and then became a field worker in Lebowa.

"I had thought Operation Hunger was just a feeding scheme, but there I got to know

what they really do. I saw people doing things for themselves, people growing food for themselves. For the first time I felt really involved and I have never looked back."

He became Operation Hunger national co-ordinator in 1987. His main task was to implement projects in Lebowa in other needy regions in the country and to set up regional structures for the organisation.

Stepping into Ina Perlman's shoes, even though it may be only temporarily, is not such a daunting task for the man who has been the feisty executive director's deputy for three years.

He doesn't see his political affiliations as a problem in a non-political organisation like Operation Hunger. "It would be hypocritical to deny my roots. But I am not active within the ANC. I am guided by the needs of the people. We feed everyone from the AWB to the most leftist people."

Mashinini believes in people. "People are not incapable, stupid or lazy. I believe that given the chance, everyone has something they can do."

"I have seen communities, totally helpless before we moved in, decide to live. Operation Hunger has injected life into hopeless situations, especially with the feeding schemes which have kept the little ones alive ... that is a wonderful thing to have been part of."

Little support for strike call by Niger unions

② Niamey - A strike called by Niger's trade unions to protest against elections won by Gen Ibrahim Bare Mainassara had little support in Niamey yesterday, but protesters burnt down a police station in the second city, Zinder.

Police in the eastern city, the stronghold of ousted civilian president Mahamane Ousmane, said protesters had burnt tyres and stoned security forces yesterday morning. He said there had been several arrests.

A journalist in Zinder said

Star 12/7/96
gangs had thrown up barricades and burnt down the police station at the city's Dole market.

Police said government offices were working normally despite the strike call. In Niamey, shops, markets and banks were open. Scores of riot police were deployed outside parliament, a gathering point for protesters.

Mainassara told state radio the unions should concentrate on labour issues and not get involved in politics.

Opposition supporters tried to

burn tyres in a couple of points around Niamey but were dispersed by security forces. The government banned demonstrations on Tuesday. - Reuters.

■ Sapa-AP reports from Washington that the White House has said it will review US policy toward Niger as well as its remaining assistance programmes towards that country.

"The military regime has clearly abandoned the path to democracy," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.