

RELEASE TRADE UNIONISTS

FOSATU has called for the release of the two Western Province General Workers Union officials David Lewis and Di Cooper. The two were detained in May under the General Laws Amendment Act, which has since been changed to detention under Section 10 of the Internal Security Act.

FOSATU feels that their detention is a step backwards and would increase suspicions about the real intentions of registration. The government

and management must realise that the present strikes are caused by the real problems of workers and not by agitators. We urgently need to organise Black workers to overcome the problems and injustices causing the strikes.

FOSATU deplores the detentions and called for their immediate release.

The ICFTU and other major trade union organisations overseas have also made strong demands for their release.

TEXTILE PROGRESS IN EASTERN PROVINCE

The National Union of Textile Workers Branch in the Eastern Province set up on 13th April is progressing well. The struggle has not been easy. The Union was recently granted stop order facilities at Industex in Port Elizabeth and has since discussed other procedures with management. Problems occurred at Veldspun in Uitenhage where there was a work stoppage from the 23rd to 25th April. Following this a meeting between the Union and the Company agreed to a referendum in the factory for workers to choose which of the two unions organising there, they wanted.

FORD-UAW HITS BACK

In a long and strongly worded statement the Port Elizabeth branch of UAW hit back at the so-called "action committee chairman," Mr. Makhanda.

"What a joke the workers struggle will be the day the foremen, managers, senior and speciality clerks, section leaders, general foremen are the representatives of workers... We do not care whether you are black or white, if you are with management you can never lead the workers in their struggles with management."

Dealing with statements of the Action Committee which the Branch Executive found most misleading, the statement dismisses the claim made by the action committee that the Branch Executive has been voted out of office at a meeting on the 29th April.

"At this point in time we are legally and constitutionally entrusted with the management of the Branch in Port Elizabeth."

The Branch Executive makes it clear that it is prepared to leave office only if the new opposition at the factory succeeds in persuading the majority of members of their views in a constitutional way. The committee however is far from resigning and commits itself to uniting and organising workers.. "as it is clear that the real struggle of workers in the factory is in sharp conflict with the interests and class position of some of these popular action committees."

FOSATU Unions Leave IMF (SA)

Five FOSATU metal unions have pulled out of the South African Co-ordinating Council of the International Metal Workers Federation (IMF) when it became clear to them that some members of the council were trying to control the FOSATU unions rather than co-operate with them.

The unions will remain members of the IMF which represents more than 14 million metal workers around the world. It is only the SA Co-ordinating Council that they are leaving. The council, was started to discuss matters affecting all metal workers, and build co-operation between the unions.

While most of the unions were prepared to cooperate quite well some of the Unions only wanted to use the Council to push their line. They wanted to control the FOSATU metal unions.

This was seen clearly when the Confederation of Metal and Building Unions went behind the backs of striking workers in the Eveready Factory at Port Elizabeth last year. The CMBU met the Minister the Labour Department and the Eveready Management without consulting the fired workers or the Union (NUMARWOSA) directly involved in the dispute.

Three unions from the Council, have with the help of different management started parallel unions. We know that managements have been using these parallel unions to push out the FOSATU unions.

The five Metal unions that have left the Council are Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) United Automobile and Rubber Workers (UAW) National Union of Motor Assembly and Rubber Workers (NUMARWOSA) Engineering and Allied Workers Union (EAWU) and Western Province Motor Assembly Workers Union (WPMWU).

These unions have decided to work together and to discuss all important matters affecting workers in the metal industry. This will help to unite workers in the Metal Industry throughout South Africa.

THE SHOP STEWARD IS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE DEPARTMENT.



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*Veldspun NUTW overwhelming victory in referendum. Company negotiates. *Volkswagen 4000 strike on 16th June over wages. Sauls saying banning of report back meeting to blame. *Frametex three worker leaders case remanded to 24th June. *WPGWU two more trade unionists Morris and Frankish detained. FOSATU condemns action. *Rely Precision 55 MAWU members in Boksburg in work stoppage. Workers charged for illegal striking. Union provides legal representation. Case remanded to 10th July.