

SAAWU STRIKE VICTORY

But Pretoria strike goes on

THE South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU) has scored a major victory at the Continental China firm in Blackheath after a short strike.

But at the Continental China plant in Rosslyn, Pretoria, the workers are still fighting to be reinstated after a strike that started in November last year.

Talks between the workers' union and the bosses ended in a deadlock recently. The bosses said they would be prepared to take back only 12 of the dismissed workers. About

650 workers had gone on strike and were dismissed.

On the morning of Wednesday April 10, about 300 workers picketed outside the gates of Continental China and demanded their jobs back.

They were all arrested and face charges of intimidation.

The fight at Continental China in Rosslyn started in August last year when the bosses asked them to work 45 hours instead of the normal 40 without an increase.

After a number of

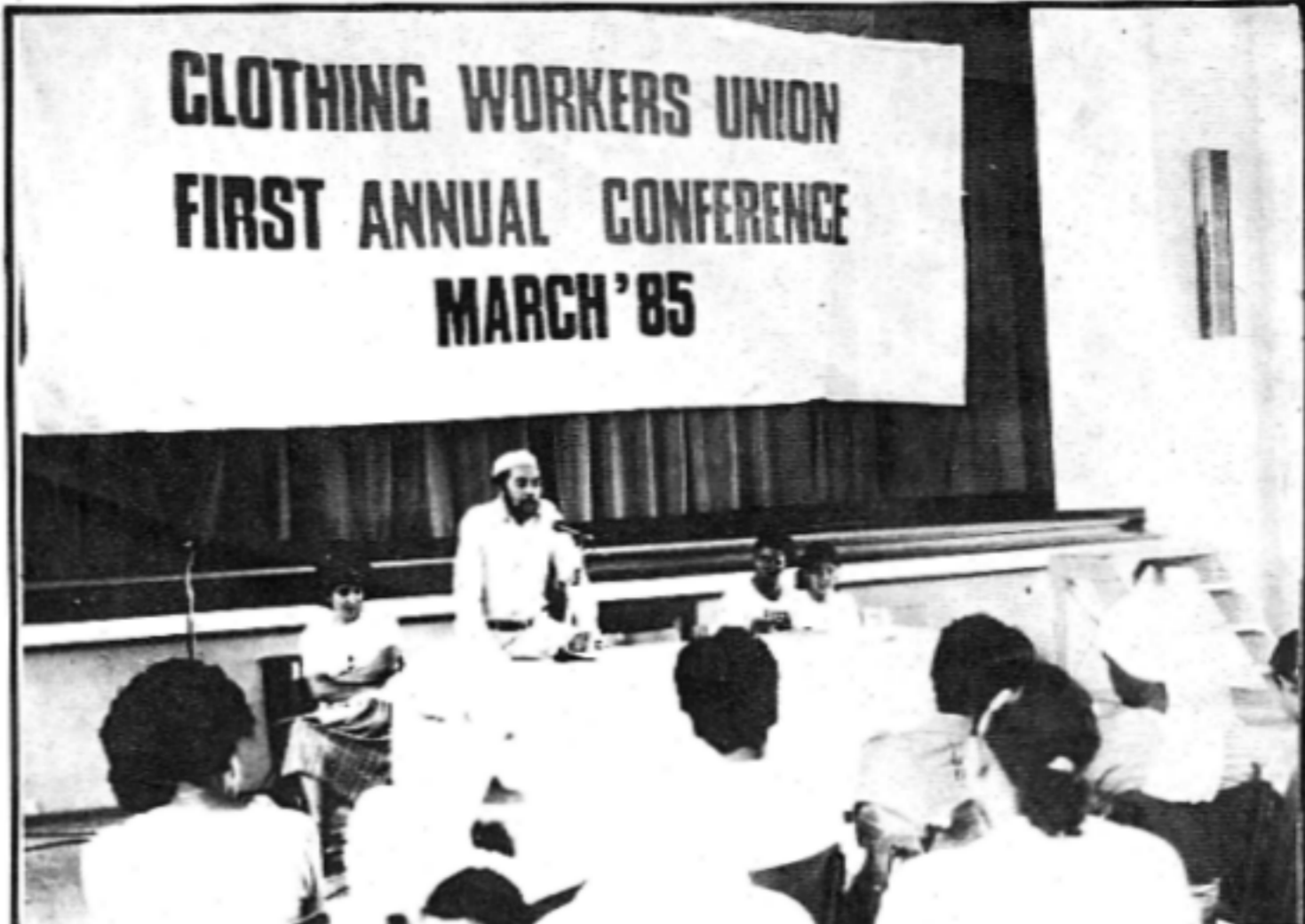
work stoppages, 300 workers were dismissed, followed by another 350.

Early this year, the Pretoria workers asked the workers in Cape Town for support.

The workers at Blackheath plant decided to come out on strike last month.

After two weeks, they were all reinstated. They all received an increase of at least 15 percent, with another possible increase in August.

Management also agreed to recognise the workers' union SAAWU.



IMAM Hassan Solomons speaks at the first AGM of the Clothing Workers' Union

The bosses are scared, Boesak tells Clowu AGM



GAWA HARTLEY, one of Clowu's executive members speaks at the AGM.

"I have discovered there is much hope in the struggle. We are not fighting in a dark tunnel anymore . . . from management in any small factory to the big bosses of this country, to the Government, they are the people who are worried. You are the people on the road to victory."

With these words Dr Allan Boesak congratulated the members of the Clothing Workers Union (Clowu) on the work they had done.

Dr Boesak was a guest speaker at Clowu's first annual conference held in Bonteheuwel on March 30.

There was a great spirit of unity at the AGM. Workers sang and shouted Amandla! in response to speakers. Other guest speakers were Amanda Kwadi from the Federation of Transvaal Women and Imam Hassan Solomons. There were many messages of support from other organisations.

PRODUCE

The secretary of Clowu, giving a report on the year's work, explained how workers in the industry are affected by retrenchments. "The bosses are using this to scare workers away from Clowu. The bosses are vicious. The big stick they are using now is retrenchments.

They say they are forced to put off workers. They use this to make our workers produce more and more. They get production without paying for overtime."

Amanda Kwadi gave a message to the workers. These were her words; "A woman from Vietnam once said that when women start to get into the struggle for freedom, you must know we are entering a new phase . . . we cannot win if women are not involved. . ."

GWU goes for registration

THE General Workers' Union has, at a special conference in March, expressed "its outrage at the killing of innocent people in Uitenhage."

The union also condemned "the leader of the capitalist world", President Ronald Reagan, for supporting the South African government.

In a statement released after the conference, the union said that "the escalating unrest in the country is an expression of the mounting anger of the workers of South Africa and their children."

They call for the unbanning of all political organisations, and the recognition of the political representatives of the people's choice.

The conference also decided that the union would register in terms Act. The General Workers Union, which has 11 500 members, has always opposed registration, because it felt that the government was trying to control the unions.

After discussing the issue for six months in each of the factories in the union, the workers felt that "the realization of our objectives

would be better served by registering".

This is because the law has changed over the years such that the unregistered unions are forced to give the government the same information as registered unions.

The advantage of registering is that the union does not have to have the permission of the Minister of Manpower to obtain stop orders which makes it easy to collect money from members. In January the National Union of Mineworkers took a similar decision.

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