

Workers to visit Australia

AUSTRALIAN miners have invited two NUM mineworkers to live and work with them for a year or two as part of an exchange programme.

The coal-producing Queensland district of the United Mineworkers Federation of Australia extended the invitation to the NUM during a visit by their vice-president, Jim Lambley, to South Africa.

Lambley visited South Africa as a guest of the NUM to promote solidarity against apartheid, and establish links between miners in industries of the two countries.

He said the reason the Queensland miners wanted South African workers to come to Australia was to promote "internationalism, equality and friendship". It would be useful for the NUM mineworkers to learn about working in a highly mechanised industry.

Australian mineworkers were very opposed to racism, he said. What had angered him most during his visit to a gold mine was how apartheid wasted the greatest resources of a country - its people. "The machines were modern, but the working conditions barbaric."



15 000 in Bekkerdal march - one of the many around the country

Mass marches for union recognition

UNION recognition and an end to racism is the chief demand of the thousands of mineworkers who have taken part in mass action over the past few months.

15 000 mineworkers and residents from Bekkersdal

marched to Randfontein Estate Gold Mine Cooke no 3 shaft on Monday, 5 March.

Mineworkers called for freedom of expression and association on the mine, which is viewed as highly repressive.

The march started off with an

open air rally at Bekkersdaal Stadium attended by 30 000 people. Workers wore mine helmets and carried banners of COSATU, NUM, the ANC and SACP.

As yet management has not responded.

SAFETY. ANGER



Workers have stopped work for a few hours to protest bad safety conditions or to mourn the deaths of their fellow workers.

Homelands must be joined to S.A.

REINCORPORATE Bophuthatswana!

This is the demand of 3000 mineworkers at Rustenberg Platinum Mines (RPM) who went on a one day strike in support of their demand that the "homeland" be reincorporated into South Africa.

The mineworkers live in Bleskop hostel in Tlhabane which is part of Bophuthatswana. The area has been tense since anti-bantustan marches were brutally broken up by Bophuthatswana police.

The Tlhabane Crisis Committee has called for a

Bophuthatswana.

The union is consulting with workers from other mines in Bophuthatswana such as Impala Platinum to form a united committee.

The NUM is not recognised by Bophuthatswana which leads to contradictions for members.

Workers can educate others

THE great need for literacy and the building of worker educators was the main focus of the NUM National Education Conference.

144 mineworker delegates attended the conference in Johannesburg on 27 and 28 April

which also elected the 1990 NESCO (National Education Co-ordinating Committee).

Five thousand workers came to the cultural rally at Jabulani Stadium, Soweto, which concluded the conference.

The highlight of the conference was a talk by ANC political

education officer, Raymond Suttner, who said we should not wait for freedom before we start teaching people to read and write.

Delegates decided to train worker educators. Their tasks would be to teach others about political and economic matters to promote our struggle.

The newly elected NESCO is:
 Sam Tambani (Chairperson)
 Joseph Nkosi (Vice-Chair)
 Amon Teteme (Secretary)
 Thomas Qhena (Vice Secretary)
 Bethuel Xungu (Treasurer)