

# LESSONS OF THE STAYAWAY

For two days last November the wheels of industry and commerce in the Transvaal came to a total stop. We saw one of the most successful political general strikes in our country's history.

Actions of this sort shake the ruling class. They also help to teach and to organise the people for even greater struggles. In this way they become paving stones on the path to final victory. What are the lessons of this mighty workers demonstration? What does it teach?

The stayaway experience has given the hundreds of thousands who went on strike a feeling of great confidence in their collective strength. It has sent a message to all our working people that political and economic demands cannot be separated. It has exposed those meddlers who have been trying to stop the trade union movement from playing a part in the national liberation struggle.

The role of the organised youth is encouraging. Organisations like Cosas and Azaso helped to organise the stayaway and to make it a success. School children joined with factory workers to distribute leaflets at work places.

The unity in action between the trade union movement, the youth, community organisations and the UDF points the way to future advances in mass struggle. Headed by our working class, the strengthening of this type of patriotic alliance is a major task for all revolutionaries.

Those honest people who are still active in organisations like Azapo and Inkatha can now see where their leaders are taking them. Instead of supporting the workers, the political backwardness and careerism of these leaders pushed them into the enemy camp during the stayaway. Those who believe in liberation must start to move away from such so-called leaders.

Like all mighty weapons, the political general strike must be used with great care and skill. When the situation is ripe the national withdrawal of labour can combine with other mass actions, including the use of revolutionary violence, to destroy the racist regime. We should, however, not be tempted to play about with strike actions. If we use the political general strike unwisely or as a routine form of demonstration, we will be reducing its potential when the right moment comes.



Those who organised the Neil Aggett protest and the November stayaway read the mood of the people correctly and on time. This shows that the leadership cadres inside the country are growing in maturity. It is more urgent than ever for more and more experienced leaders of our liberation movement to be where the action is — inside the country.

The November protest has shown that the people, and especially our workers are ready to make big sacrifices in the cause of freedom. If properly handled the strike weapon can become one of the key factors in the struggle for People's Power.

**WORKERS UNITE TO SMASH RACISM!**