These events culminated in a baton charge by the South African Police on workers and trade unionists in which 24 workers were taken to the Natalspruit Hospital for treatment. In a trial after the events two trade unionists were found not guilty of inciting the strike, but the magistrate in one of the trials following the baton charge found that

> There is also evidence to show that the complainant firm was not blameless in the march of events, and there must be more

than a suspicion that the events were in fact engineered by the firm. In order to reach a show-down with their workers.

On Friday, 19th October, the state reached an out of court settlement in the case brought *against them by 19 African workers and a white* trade unionist for compensation for the injuries received. The state has agreed to pay out a total of R21 359, including an amount of R6 000 to Ms Christine Molokele who has lost effective vision in one eye.

GOOD NEWS VENDA CIVIL SERVANTS!!! SALARY INCREMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The Cabinet (of Venda) has decided to increase the salaries of officials of the Venda Public Service from the date of Independence (13 September 1979) with an average of 15%. This increment, on the one hand is to compensate officials for the great responsibility which they will have to carry after independence and on the other hand this is to make the young improve in education, which is regarded as one of the highest priorities in the development of Venda.

Examples of what salary increment embraces for certain ranks are as follows:

Secretaries (Head of Departments	R17 400 to R19 200
Deputy Secretary	R16 800 to R18 600
Chief Inspector of Education and Chief Education Planner	R16 800 to R18 000
Circuit Inspector	R15 000 x 600 — R16 800 to R15 600 x 600 — R17 400

Furthermore salary increments for Chiefs and Headmen have also been approved for the 13 September as follows:-

3 Chiefs	— R1800
22 Chiefs	— R1200
379 Headmen	— R 600

STRIKES in SOUTH AFRICA

IMPLICATIONS FOR WORKING CLASS STRATEGY.

THE QUESTION WHICH this paper attempts to answer is whether there is something essentially different between strikes in 'Third World' countries (ie South America, Africa, Middle East, Asia Minor and South East Asia) and those in the so-called 'rich' countries (ie North America and Western Europe). The importance of the question is that strategies of working class action depend on the answer provided. This paper will show how strike action by the working masses in South Africa (as a 'Third World' country) implied a certain understanding of the objective social conditions at different stages of South Africa's development.

This contribution is part of a longer paper on strikes in South Africa. The second part, dealing with the 1970s, will appear in the next issue of WIP. The paper attempts to explain and understand the difference between strike activity in so-called 'Third World' countries and the developed centres of capitalist power (Western Europe, North America, etc). In doing this, the argument is advanced that there are important features which distinguish the stronger parts of the capitalist world system (the major imperialist powers) from the weaker or peripheral capitalist societies (the 'Third World'). One of these features, it is suggested, is the nature of the state, which is far more repressive, and intervenes more directly, in the weaker links of the world capitalist system.

In a South African context, the paper also looks at a situation where a large part of the work-force is migrant, and retains links with family structures in the reserves/bantustans (or what the ruling classes call 'homelands'). The paper shows how the enforced retention of this migrant relationship allows the capitalist class to pay wages which only have to take account of the individual worker, and can ignore his families subsistence needs. In doing this, the paper explores the nature of the relationship between urban and rural production in South Africa, and the way in which this relationship has historically affected the working class.

-The Editors.