



ARISE! VUKA

NEWSPAPER OF ACTION YOUTH

ARISE! YOU PRISONERS OF STARVATION
ARISE! YOU WRETCHED OF THE EARTH
FOR JUSTICE THUNDERS CONDEMNATION
A BETTER WORLD IN BIRTH
NO MORE TRADITION'S CHAINS SHALL BIND US
ARISE! YOU SLAVES NO MORE IN THRALL
THE EARTH WILL RISE ON NEW FOUNDATIONS
WE HAVE BEEN NAUGHT
WE SHALL BE ALL!

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OUR RESPONSE:



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RIVERLEA EXTENSION - A G

HOUSING

In our society, the minority own the farms and factories and mines where production is carried on. The majority own nothing except their ability to work and turn raw materials into useable products, thereby producing the wealth of this country. They are paid to reproduce their lost strength and feed, clothe, house themselves and their families so that they can be fit to work another day. The bosses, in order to make a maximum profit, have to pay workers a minimal wage. Because we live in an apartheid/capitalist state, everything possible is done to lower the costs of black labour. So black workers are generally housed in the cheapest possible ways.

GROUP AREAS

Because of the Group Areas Act, most of the residents in Riverlea Extension were forced to move into these two and three-roomed sub-economic houses where up to thirty-one people occupy one house. The Johannesburg Municipal Council, which administers Ext., constructed the houses there according to the National Housing Code requirements—houses without inside toilets, ceilings and electricity.

There are absolutely no recreational facilities. A single understaffed non-governmental clinic which opens only twice a week exists for the thousands of residents. Although there are many single working mothers in Riverlea Extension there isn't a single creche.



A single working mother with her three children.



A typical toilet in Riverlea Extension.

RENT

More than twenty years after the township was built, the Council "generously" decided to supply the residents of Ext. with "bathrooms". They installed bathtubs in a CORNER of the already minute kitchen of the peoples homes. Since then, peoples' rent have increased dramatically. Rent in Ext. used to be R6.50—this included water and maintenance expenses. Residents now have to pay rent according to their wages—the more you earn, the more you pay. Many residents have to pay up to R60.00 a month for rent alone. Most residents are in arrears with their water accounts, which is now charged separately.

WATER

Some of the bills exceed R1000.00. These ridiculous charges exist, because:

1. The Council has not replaced any of the water-meters since the township was built and they are now faulty (the average lifespan of a water-meter is seven years)
2. Water-meter readers earn such low wages, they are inefficient—they don't even lift the lids off the water meters to gauge the amount of water a household would use. Many of the water-meters are covered with so much



ETTO IN THE 'CITY OF GOLD'

dust and dirt, that a reading would be an impossible task.

It is also a well known fact that a lot of the water pipes in the area leak. Yet the people of Ext. are forced to pay these exorbitant costs.

ELECTRICITY

Two decades have passed and still the Ext. community has to get along without electricity. Most residents feel that the cost of electricity would be much cheaper than the costs they are presently incurring for wood, coal, candles, etc.



COSTS:

EXCLUDING WATER

Coal	R32.00
Paraffin	R13.00
Candles	R5.60
Gas	R20.00
T.V. Battery	R40.00
Radio Batt.	R32.00
Wood	R12.00
	<u>R154.60</u> p. month
	+ G.S.T. 10%

(PENSIONERS ONLY EARN R93.00 PER MONTH)

same: NO MONEY ! Yet a few kilometres away, the Council is pumping millions of rands into building a model village as part of the Johannesburg Centenary Festival.

CIVIC

It is clear that the wealth of this country is being used for the benefit of a few, and that the laws of this country are designed to oppress and exploit the majority of people at every turn. We must continue our struggle to eradicate all injustices that have been flung at us by actively organising ourselves into sports, community, youth organisations in our areas. Concerned residents in Riverlea Extension have come together and are presently engaged in organising a civic association in the area.



This lack of electricity has caused severe health problems with many residents suffering from respiratory diseases and poisoning from commonly used household substances. Burns from coal stoves, cooking fires and boiling water are common.



Despite the peoples continued protests about the lack of electricity, the Council's reply has always been the

YOUTH



An exciting development in Riverlea Extension has been the establishment of a youth group. To instill self-confidence and a sense of purpose in our youth, young people from Riverlea, Bosmont and Fordsburg decided to form a youth group in Riverlea Extension.

Every Friday evening at 8 o'clock, young people participate in a programme which so far has included video shows, discussions, singing, games and plays. The videos and discussions have focussed on topical issues while the drama presentations (skits) portrayed life in places like Extension.

Due to insufficient recreational facilities as well as existing hardships, our youth have resorted to crime and drug abuse. The aim of the youth group is to encourage individuals to develop their talents and abilities so that they can express themselves in a more meaningful way.

Join us so that together we can build one proud nation free from exploitation and oppression.



OPPRESSED STUDENTS-

UNITY/ MILITANCY

Almost everyday there is an article in the newspapers about students in one school or another boycotting classes. In the last few months many students have been suspended, some have been arrested and a few have been killed as a result of police action against student protesters.

The student boycott of classes reached its peak during the last two weeks of August. It coincided with the election of candidates for the House of Delegates and the House of Representatives in the new 'Tri-racist' parliament.

A week before the elections representatives from about 40 schools in the Transvaal came together to discuss the new laws of the government, sometimes called the 'New Deal', and how these laws would affect their future. They also discussed problems that were specific to certain schools, problems like the recognition of SRC's, age-limit regulations, victimisation of students who play sports under the SACOS umbrella, and soldier-teachers in their schools. The representatives decided to form an inter-high school co-ordinating committee in order to plan joint action against the 'New Deal' and support each other.

Vuka/Arise spoke to a student from Ibhongo High School in Soweto, who was elected to a sub-committee in charge of co-ordinating the 'awareness programme' in various schools as well as publicising the students' demands.

Vuka/Arise: Both the Rev. Allen Hendrickse and the minister of law and order have condemned the boycotts as being the work of outsiders and agitators. Can you comment?

Student: The only outsiders that could have agitated the students to boycott are the likes of Hendrickse and the minister of law and order and the system they seek to maintain. The initiative to boycott came from the students themselves. We felt we needed to show our parents and the world how strongly we feel about this latest trick of the government.

V/A: Was it difficult to get all the representatives (from the various schools) together and to co-ordinate activities?

Student: Because attempts are continuously made to divide oppressed people along 'ethnic lines', and because we have been forced to live separately in different townships there was a problem of transporting students to a common venue. But we succeeded, and it was encouraging to see black students from Soweto, Riverlea, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, Fordsburg and Bosmont discussing and planning with each other. This unity itself was a victory. Also many students belong to different student organisations so there was friction but because

of the overriding and common problems facing us we reached consensus on major issues in an atmosphere of non-sectarianism.

V/A: Why do the students feel so strongly about the New Deal?

Student: As part of the "New Deal", education will be restructured. From next year our parents will have to pay high fees for our education. Many of our parents will not be able to pay these fees thus forcing us to look for jobs in a country where millions are already unemployed. Students will be forced into different streams- the majority of black students will get an education that will bar them from attending university. The army will play a bigger role in our schools, already they are trying to indoctrinate us as shown in schools like Eldorado Park where many of the students have been molested and defence propaganda distributed. We have seen that many of us will not be able to continue schooling nor will we be able to find jobs, in this way forcing many of our brothers into the army, and one day they will be forced to turn their guns onto us. Also, the Rajbansi's and Hendrickse's will be in control of our education. We see how our fellow students in the Bantustans suffer under the yoke of the Sebe's. The same fate awaits us. The collaborators have shown that they can be more vicious than their white masters.

V/A: Certain demands were made by the inter school co-ordinating committee. Can you name them?

Student: There were 8.
1) The immediate opening of all suspended and closed schools.
2) SRC's elected by us, accountable to us and not to dictatorial principals.
3) An end to soldier-teachers and government and army propaganda in our schools.
4) An end to corporal punishment.
5) An end to victimisation of students who play SACOS sports
5) An end to age-limit regulation.
7) An end to sexist teachers and teachers who abuse their
3) An end to the victimisation of progressive teachers.

V/A: Students also workshopped what they called long-term goals. What were these?

Student: These were:
1) A unity nation free from OPPRESSION and EXPLOITATION, and where all shall have DEMOCRATIC and EQUAL voting rights.
2) State provision of FREE and COMPULSORY education for ALL and that this education be geared towards liberating our people from ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION, EXPLOITATION AND IGNORANCE.

V/A: Can students achieve these goals on their own?

Student: Definitely not. These goals can only be achieved by the Black Worker- Student alliance.



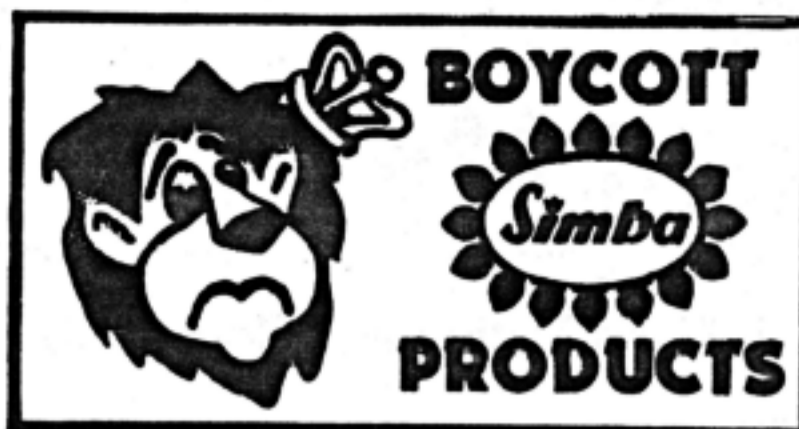
Students march in Lenasia.

UNITED ACTION COMMITTEE

The united action committee was formed soon after the events of August 28 in Lenasia. It offers assistance to the numerous victims of police action all over the Transvaal. The committee consists of a team of doctors, lawyers and volunteers who are prepared to offer free medical or legal advice. Doctors on the Committee told of untreated injuries they have come across in the Vaal Triangle area recently.

Said one doctor: "It seems that people just do not know whom to turn to or where to seek assistance. What is more, is that it was quite obvious that many of them were even too scared to seek treatment especially at hospitals. It appears that they fear being arrested as 'rioters' if they were to seek treatment for their injuries from police batons, whips, or rubber bullets."

Victims of the recent unrest who need assistance - medical or legal are requested to ring the following number: Basheer Lorgat 852 3707 [up to 9pm].



- Two workers were fired for refusing to work double job.
- One worker was dismissed for throwing a potatoe (one) into a container.
- Shop-stewards negotiated with management to have the 3 dismissed workers re-instated, but to no avail.
- They even refused to negotiate with the Union Official (SFAWU), claiming its their prerogative to hire and fire.
- The Union is recognised here since 1982.
- 464 Workers were subsequently dismissed for striking in solidarity with their dismissed fellow workers.
- "Scab" labour is employed to take-over our jobs

S P O R T S A C T I O N C O M M I T T E E

Once the Tri-cameral parliament comes into effect many "powers" will be vested in so called management committees. As sports-persons we will definitely be affected. We will have to apply for the use of facilities to these puppet bodies. As members of SACOS, we will rightfully refuse to do so.

However, many sportspersons will not be aware of the dangers that lie ahead. Many sports organisations will adopt different stances to the problem. We feel that the facilities in our area are dismal, to say the least. Furthermore, we feel however dismal they may be, these facilities belong to us. Therefore, these gutter opportunist must not purport to represent us in the allocation of these facilities.

Never before in the history of the sports struggle has there been the dire need for unity. Only if we are united in thought and action will we be able to counteract the new deal. Only if we are united will we have strength and common action. Fragmentation of our forces will leave us shattered and defeated.

Viewing the above and also the might of the force that rule, we at Western Areas Table Tennis Association seriously consider the information of a Sports Action Committee [SAC] in the various areas in our province as vital. We feel that the SAC's must be democratically elected and be representative of all the sportspersons in the particular area. A SAC has been initiated by us. For further info write to: P.O. Box 678 Lenasia.



Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU)

The independent trade union movement in South Africa has grown rapidly since the early 1970's. Recent debates such as those around registration have given the movement clearer direction. In the trade union movement, as in other organisations of the oppressed, greater unity is being forged. On the one hand there is the by now well known unity talks between the larger trade union groupings such as FOSATU, GMU, CUSA.

But there is also growing unity among the smaller unions. A few months ago 6 independent unions all sharing a mainly Black Consciousness position formed an alliance. The Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU), involved in the recent Penge asbestos mine strike in Northern Transvaal is one of them. Vuka spoke to Pandelani Nefolovodwe, BAMCWU's general-secretary.

ASBESTOS MINE STRIKE

BAMCWU was involved in the recent Penge asbestos mine strike where 1,700 workers lost their jobs. The strike centred around demands for higher wages and recognition of the Union. When their demands were not met, workers chose the certainty of starvation and hardship in Lebowa, rather than accept the mine's offer of re-employment at lower pay. They remained committed to their union throughout.

BAMCWU now intends carrying out an independent study into the

effects of asbestos on workers.

Very little has been written about this union which was born of a strike two years ago. Its first newsletter, Mosebetsi/Umsebenzi was banned for distribution and possession.

AZAPO

With only a tiny percentage of miners organised, BAMCWU believes there is organising space for it in an area already involving NUM, SAAWU and UMMAWOSA. Workers, they say, must themselves decide which union best represents their interests. While AZAPO members have been involved in the union from its formation, and the union shares much of AZAPO's politics, it stresses that it is an autonomous organisation.

BAMCWU was born of a strike by about 500 workers at Pioneer Ready Mix Concrete. During the strike, workers turned for advice to Letsatsi Mosala, then AZAPO's labour secretary. After the strike they felt it necessary to form a permanent structure to defend the interests of construction workers. BAMCWU emerged in June 1982 after a meeting between the workers and AZAPO members involved in labour issues. Today Letsatsi Mosala is the president of the union which organises in the cementation,

mining, building and related industries.

From its small beginnings in 1982, membership has grown to around 20,000, and it is still growing rapidly. Union officials say about 400 workers come to the office every week to sign up. Presently there is no special emphasis on organising in the gold and coal mines, although this is the aim. BAMCWU has access to the mines but has yet to conclude recognition agreements with the Chamber of Mines.

Pandelani Nefolovodwe, BAMCWU's general secretary, said the union believes strongly that worker issues on the factory floor and those of the community are integrally linked. "There is nothing which leads us to believe that the life of a worker at work and his life at home must be separated. This does not mean we don't see a distinction between problems at work and in the community. But we believe in looking at the life of a Black worker in totality. We look at it in terms of the struggle against exploitation and oppression." We believe the Black workers' struggle must be tied to the broad political struggle. And our perspective of the





AZANIAN MANIFESTO

struggle is that of the Manifesto of the Azanian People, adopted at this year's National Forum. "The struggle is not for reform but for transformation. That is why the trade union struggle is not enough. Trade unions need the principled leadership of a viable political organisation.

In line with their agreement with the principles of the Azanian Manifesto, Nef says they also emphasise self-reliance and independence of Black worker organisations. "This self-reliance is expressed at all levels and is only possible if genuine worker democracy exists." "The Black working class is the leading force in our struggle. This is why they must make the decisions, not the union officials. Organisationally the striving for self-reliance has shown itself in the principled refusal to register. "At our congress this year," says Nef, "we decided not to register because we see registration as an inroad into unions by the ruling class and state."

Recognition agreements are seen in a similar light. "They are agreements between workers and bosses. Such agreements can't be upheld in the long term. Real change in the interests of Black workers can't be won within the limits of

labour laws. We regard these agreements as tactical measures to be used when necessary but not to be over-emphasised. "Ideologically self-reliance is encouraged by barring whites from membership of the union. "No one can deny that there may be committed whites. Some may even be committed to the Azanian Manifesto. But we must distinguish between their commitment and their role. We believe they should prepare the people in the areas where they live for social change. Why do they want to organise Blacks and Black workers? Blacks and Black workers are capable of organising themselves for liberation." We adopt this position because of the objective reality of South Africa, not anti-whitism.

UNITY TALKS

Blacks for us include all those who are by law or tradition discriminated against in the South African society and who identify as a unit against oppression and exploitation.

On a wider scale, BAMCWU has tried to assist in building independence of Black worker organisations. While it was excluded from the unity talks initiated by

FOSATU and the other large trade union groupings, it has been party to an alliance of six independent unregistered unions. "To this day we don't know why we were excluded from the unity talks. But we also realise the need for self-reliance that this can only be reached by uniting unions with similar ideals. This is why we formed the alliance. But we'd still welcome talks geared to wider unity.

STATE REPRESSION

"In the future the independent Black trade unions are sure to face increased state harassment. But this does not deter us at all."

BAMCWU was also involved in the strike by about 10,000 workers at Rand Mines Durban Deep near Roodepoort. Police were called in and at least 111 workers were injured. 25 were treated in hospital.

BAMCWU says that the number of injured is much higher and that some workers were sent back to the bantustans without receiving any benefits. Other workers were forced to work at gunpoint. Mine managers denied this. They said that armed policemen at the mine had come to protect those who had wanted to report for work.



Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU)

AND WITH PICKS IN THEIR HANDS TURN INTO MALLETS OF JUSTICE. THEY MUST

Victory is Ours!

Predictably, the 'New Deal' elections were a failure for the rulers. For us, the exploited and oppressed, they were a resounding success. The low poll clearly showed that we know what is in our interests and what is not. Action taken during the elections underscored the militancy and the extent of the resistance ordinary people are capable of.

Again, as in 1976 and 1980, men, women and youth received their political baptism in the pitched battles between unevenly balanced forces of the oppressed and the exploited on the one hand and the state and the state apparatus on the other.

At the top, the apartheid state and Lenasia, the true nature of the New Deal, the government, the state and collaborationist parties shone through the tarnished veneer of 'reform'.

At the bottom, the peaceful protest was met with a vicious state reaction. Men with the knowledge that violence awaited their legitimate protest, workers and students continued with the plan of action they had decided on. Action youth salutes the heroic courage of the oppressed and exploited people of South Africa!

They persevered in the face of state repression.



Unfortunately, attempts were also made by elements within the liberation movement (broadly speaking) to dissuade people from protesting.

Criticism

At this point it should be borne in mind that if we wish to correctly assess both election days we should be frank and open. Criticism of any action or political tendency is done in a positive manner for the benefit of the overall struggle. It is not by covering up our differences that development takes place but by fully arguing them out. In this way the validity of our arguments will be tested in theory and practice.

According to a number of those present at polling stations on both election days, members of the TIC (Transvaal Indian Congress) tried to dissuade people from protesting, although these people had assembled at the booths for that purpose.

'Monitoring'

In the Transvaal and most of the country, the UDF's action on both election days consisted of 'monitoring the voting'. Yet, some of UDF rank and file did take part in active protest.

The UDF are entitled to embark on whatever action they see fit. While we are critical of their action, we are more disturbed by their attempts to wreck the strategies of other organisations.

Students

A student who went to the Plaza, which was opposite the Fordsburg polling station, on the day of the House of Delegates' elections said: 'More than 100 of us had come to the Plaza from Bosmont, Riverlea, and Fordsburg.

We'd come to demonstrate peacefully. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Inter-High School Co-ordinating Committee which represents 40 schools. There were police everywhere that day - Security Police and those from the Reaction Unit. Despite this we still wanted to go ahead. We were scared but determined. We were about to take our placards and go to where we were to demonstrate when some TIC people came to speak to us. They only came to so-called 'Indian' students. They tried to talk us out of protesting.'

A student who went to the polling booth in Lenasia said: 'Some TIC redirected the student march to the Jiswa Centre where they tried to dissuade them from participating in the protest. We had marched all the way from Kliptown because we wanted to show our rejection of the New Deal elections. We didn't see it as an 'Indian' issue.'

TIC

TIC and UDF denied that they gave any mandate for tactics of dissuasion. But if these disruptive actions by UDF individuals did not have the blessing of

the organisation, why have the 'individuals' not been disciplined? Why has no formal, public apology been made to the organisations concerned?

It is disturbing to see how the UDF, through the liberal media, claimed responsibility for the protest and the low poll. Never did they mention other organisations who participated throughout the campaign.

While the UDF, towards the end of the anti-election campaign, was clear on complete boycott, this was not always the case.

ELECTION DAY



SAZAPO and ACTION YOUTH members on election day. This snap shows Saspu National with the iconic 'UDF supporters'. Saspu National mouth piece of the white student Nusas. Nusas is affiliated

At first, elements in the UDF (TIC and NIC) wanted to take part in a government ethnic referendum. When this didn't materialise they organised their own 'people's referendum' - the million signature campaign. (Incidentally UDF claims to have a million members through their various affiliates. If that is so, then why did it take after 1½ years UDF has only been able to obtain about 300 000 signatures.)

In the meantime, the building of grassroots organisations has been neglected. There was all talk in UDF circles of putting up boycott candidates. Finally, they all agreed on complete boycott.

National Forum

On the other hand, organisations in the National Forum decided on a complete boycott from the beginning of



rs in Lenasia
appeared in
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dent organisation
to UDF.

the campaign. Why did we decide on a complete boycott? To answer this we must look at the boycott as a weapon of struggle, how it has been used and our view of the nature of the South African struggle.

The Boycott

The boycott is not in itself a policy but a practical application of the policy of non-collaboration at a specific time. It is particularly applicable at those moments when the sellouts are engaged in the very act of luring the people into putting the noose round their neck. The boycott has the effect of not only arresting the hand that carries the rope, but of holding it up for all to see. The collaborator is, as it were, caught in the act, red-handed.

When an organisation advocates boycott, it cannot just pass a resolution to that effect and merely announce the fact to the masses. That would be meaningless. It takes upon itself the duty of going out to the people and carefully explaining to them why they must boycott a particular institution.

The boycott should

become a live issue, discussed in the streets, the trains and the buses, in the classrooms and playgrounds, in the factories and homes.

Boycott here was not enough for two reasons:

- (1) Whether or not the majority of people support the New Deal it would still be implemented. No matter how low the poll, we knew, and history has shown us to be right, the 'elected candidates' would take their seats in parliament and speak on behalf of 'their people'.
- (2) The anti-election campaign, if it had been limited to boycott alone,

would only have included a part of the oppressed people, the so-called 'coloureds' and 'indians', as they were the only ones eligible to vote.

But the New Deal elections were something which affected ALL oppressed and had to be resisted by ALL, not only by so-called 'coloureds' and 'indians'.

A boycott is also not a very visible form of protest and we needed these kinds of action as well - to show the extent of our dissatisfaction, to show the collaborators that we mean business and to expose the real nature of the elections and the 'New Deal'.

Undemocratic

While 'monitoring the voting' might be interesting, this was not one of the more important tasks for the elections. Three basic things were necessary:

- a low poll
- exposure of the real, undemocratic nature of the elections and those desperately trying to make them work
- shift in the emphasis from the actual elections to rejection.

Our decision to boycott the elections and to take other action as well was based on two things: the history of our struggle and our understanding of the nature of our struggle today.

The collapse of government-erected bodies designed to fool us - such as the CRC, SAIC, Management Committees and Community Councils-

resulted from the successful use of the boycott. The 'New Deal' itself is a response to the failure of these bodies. It is another attempt to save the capitalist system in South Africa.

For us, the struggle is one which is anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and led by the oppressed and exploited workers (urban and rural) in alliance with radical elements of the petit bourgeoisie. The struggle is for a socialist republic.

Simultaneously, our struggle means the building of a single nation, overcoming divisions of our people and our country. Also, our struggle is part of the African and world struggle against imperialist expansion.

National Convention

For the UDF, the struggle is to end apartheid, for 'human rights'. They are not aiming at fundamental change but a negotiated settlement with the rulers - a national convention.

It is not our task to work for reform. It is our task to strengthen democracy among the

oppressed and exploited by building strong representative organisations. We must begin now to lay the basis for the future workers' republic, where democracy will be in the interests of the majority.

FORWARD TO A SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF AZANIA!



WOMENS' OPPRESSION

WORK

Since the early sixties millions of black women in S.A. have been forced to take on jobs in industry as a result of their menfolk not earning enough wages or becoming unemployed. The situation is made worse as family life is broken up in this capitalist-apartheid system. Husbands leave their wives, and men give their lovers children, and then abandon them. Today, women occupy jobs which were seen as "men's work" before. At work they experience even worse problems than their husbands, brothers, sons and lovers.

SEXISM

The vast majority of women in S.A. are oppressed and exploited in three ways. As Black people, as women and as workers. All black people in this country, all who are not classified White are denied the most commonly accepted rights. All women suffer in varying degrees from Sexism whereby women are regarded as inferior to men - this affects women's participation in worker, community and political organisations. For example, a man's opinion on any issue will usually be regarded as more important than a woman's.

Black women workers make up almost half of S.A.'s total workforce. In numbers they almost equal men, yet they are paid much

less than men. In certain industries, such as food and canning textiles and clothing shops etc. where bosses actually prefer women they are still paid less than men doing the same work. Women also have less choice of jobs. The only hope of survival for millions of women is low paying casual labour or domestic labour.

DOMESTIC SERVICE

Domestic services is often the only jobs black women can find - here they face extreme exploitation: lower wages, ^{than} most urban workers, extremely long hours of work including weekends and public holidays, no law to protect and constant personal humiliation from the "madame".

In many cases women are the only breadwinners. They have to see to the immediate domestic problems such as clothing for the children, paying rent, feeding hungry mouths, paying accounts and so on.

In addition to the exploitation suffered by all workers generally, women have their own added burdens. As child-bearers they are discriminated against.

Pregnant shop assistant for example, are transferred to the storerooms or to dispatch where they must work harder, simply because "it does n't look

nice for the customers". On returning after childbirth if she still has her job - the mother of a new born baby will often be treated like a new worker starting on the lowest grade. She might also have to start her pension savings all over again - and this is when she needs more money than before, because now she has an extra mouth to feed.

SEXUAL TOYS

They are used as the sexual toys of men at their work places - they must give their bodies to keep their jobs. Women are often abused sexually, both by their fellow male workers and by management. The promise of sexual favours is often the exchange for promotion to a softer job, or even for just getting a job.

Women also face a "second shift" that is, they work during the day in factories or the fields and then they have to do most of the housework during the early hours of the morning and at night as well, for which they are not paid.

To be continued : the reasons for women's oppression and women's resistance.



BREAD NOT BULLETS!



Bread not bullets is what the people want. And badly - G.S.T., rent, electricity, bus fare and food increases have already dealt workers a vicious blow. Everything in life is expensive, but our wages remain low. Black workers, youth and students in the Vaal Triangle [Sebokeng, Evaton, Sharpeville, Boipatong and Bapheholong] organised a protest demonstration against these grievances. The rent was supposed to be increased by R5-90. In the next few days over 30 people were killed and hundreds injured. The rich are protecting their own, and making sure they have the weapons to do so. The irony is that the more they inflict poverty on the mass of society, the more they need weapons to defend themselves!. Only when the working class who produce the wealth in society, also control it and are in charge of distributing it, will there be homes, food and jobs for all.



What

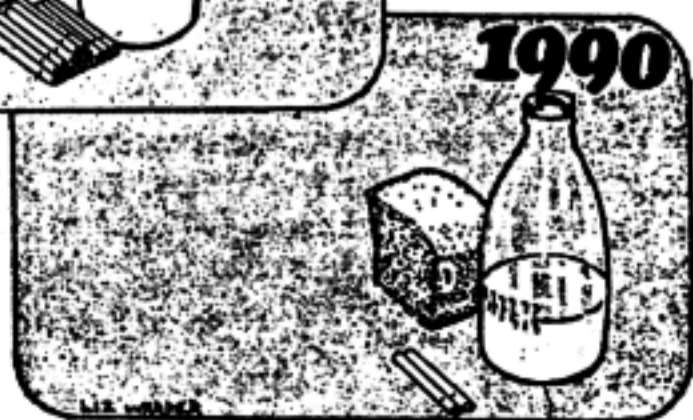
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FOOD FOR

PEOPLE

NOT FOR

PROFIT !



could
buy in ...

FOCUS ON EL

BASIC FACTS

Land Size - that of Lesotho
Population - 4½ million
Government - Military Dictatorship
2 percent of the population own 70 percent of the land.
3 million or three quarters of the population subsist on less than R7,50 a month.
Only 16 percent of the economically active are employed throughout the year.



OPPRESSION

For over half a century absolute power in this small and tortured country has been concentrated in the hands of 10 families (the oligarchy) and the army. This power bloc has been supported by the United States. The El Salvadorean regime has imposed its power on the people by the most oppressive means and with complete disregard for the rights of the population.

A tyrant who ruled El Salvador for 14 years, killed 30 000 peasants in 1932 during a peasant uprising against his rule. As the Salvadorean poet Roque Dalton wrote, 'We were all born half dead in 1932. We survived, out half alive...'

Military dictator after military dictator has perpetuated a system of exploitation and oppression defined by the Economist (London - Feb. 2, 1981) as one of the most unjust countries in the world. It is known for its extraordinary brutality - people are detained and systematically tortured in the most brutal manner. Both torture and assassination is carried out openly.

In one year (1980) alone, 10 000 trade unionists and peasant activists were killed by the regime.

HEROIC STRUGGLE

The history of El Salvador is a history of heroic struggle by the Salvadorean people against these tyrants. Organisations of the people have grown steadily since their formation in the mid-70's. Beginning in the mid-70's the 3 leading revolutionary groups - the National Resistance, the Popular Liberatory Forces, and the Popular Revolutionary Army - put a high priority on supporting the development of mass organisations in both rural and urban areas. Virtually every sector of El Salvadorean society from workers, peasants and teachers to students and clerics were incorporated into mass organisations linked to the political-military groups. The activities of the mass organisations, including demonstrations, strikes and the occupation of government buildings, were as important in challenging the existing economic, social, and political structures as was the armed struggle. By early 1980, it was estimated that more than a quarter of a million people were participating actively in these organisations. The mass organisations and their military

wings at this time overcame their historic differences and formed the FDR and FMLN respectively. Even the Stalinist Communist Party which all this time was part of the junta threw in their lot with the people.

Massive repression and genocide, with hundreds of people missing/ murdered every month, has been the desperate response of the U.S.-backed junta to this popular mobilization.

PEOPLE'S WAR

On the military terrain the junta is facing not just a guerilla conflict but a full scale 'people's war', fought and sustained by broad sectors of the population. What were once isolated guerrilla units have now been superseded by popular armies and militias, recruited mainly from among peasants and workers who live in the combat zones. There is also a vast support network among the local population that supplies food, medical assistance, and shelter, manufactures weapons, & provides intelligence on the movements of enemy forces.

At no time in Latin America has U.S. imperialism been faced with such a well entrenched and popularly based revolutionary army.

SALVADOR

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN EL SALVADOREAN POLITICAL PRISONER
TO HIS DAUGHTER (taken from Salpress Special Report)

"I begin this letter, my daughter, from the prisons of this regime...."

"One of these mornings, brilliant with light, the cold awoke me where I sleep on the floor....I sat up, fixed my eyes on a window with thick bars, and in a sky still filled with stars, your young and beautiful face appeared. It invited me to speak of things we used to talk about at home...."

I told you that we were living in a period of extreme political and social importance. We analysed the increase in repression, the innumerable mass killings carried out by the regime, the jailing of hundreds of patriots and the disappearance of many - all of the continual violation of human rights on the part of the regime. We also analysed the blows the organisation had had to absorb, blows dealt it by that band of criminals in power. You told me that it was precisely because of all the injustices the regime was committing against an impoverished and hard-working people, injustices which affected your feelings so deeply, that you decided to fight against against a corrupt regime

I fell silent for a moment, remember, my daughter? And my face, hardened by the years, apparently insensitive, suddenly broke. I was greatly affected by the things you shared with me, my feelings betrayed me and tears rolled down my face. You were immediately aware of this and broke off the conversation.

I told you to go on, because your words filled me with great optimism. Inspired by that precious moment, I felt victory even closer at hand. I know that the road we've both taken is a long and hard one, but when we are struggling for a just cause, all the sacrifices light a bright path towards our final victory.....

Now I am in prison and I don't know where to find you, but I want to tell you once again that all I have thought and believed about our family has not been in vain. If I am in prison it is because I have been troublesome to the regime. I am an obstacle to their criminal plans, just like thousands of other patriots who have become the victims of this repression...

Remember this, my daughter - victory will be ours. We will

continue our struggle until the final victory - you, from your place of struggle, and I from within the prisons of the dictatorship.

From your father in prison."



Azanian Manifesto

OUR GOALS

Our struggle for national liberation is directed against the system of racial capitalism which holds the people of Azania in bondage for the benefit of the small minority of white capitalists and their allies, the white workers and the reactionary sections of the middle classes. The struggle against apartheid, therefore, is no more than the point of departure for our liberatory efforts. Only the eradication of the system of racial capitalism can put an end to apartheid.

The black working class inspired by revolutionary consciousness is the driving force of our struggle. They alone can end the system as it stands today because they alone have nothing at all to lose. They have a world to gain in a democratic, anti-racist and socialist Azania, where the interests of the workers shall be paramount through worker control of the means of production, distribution and exchange. In the socialist republic of Azania, the land and all that belongs to it shall be wholly owned and controlled by the Azanian people. The usage of the land and all that accrues to it shall be aimed at ending all exploitation.

It is the historic task of the black working class and its organisations to mobilise the urban and rural poor together with the radical sections of the middle classes in order to put an end to the system of oppression and exploitation by the white ruling class. In the course of this struggle, one national culture informed by socialist values will come into being.

OUR PRINCIPLES

The successful conduct of the national liberation struggle depends on a firm basis of principle whereby we will ensure that the liberation struggle will not be turned against our people by treacherous and opportunistic "leaders" and their liberal allies. The most important of these principles are:

- * Anti-racism and anti-imperialism
- * Non-collaboration with the oppressors and their political instruments
- * Independent working-class organisation
- * Opposition to all alliances with ruling-class parties

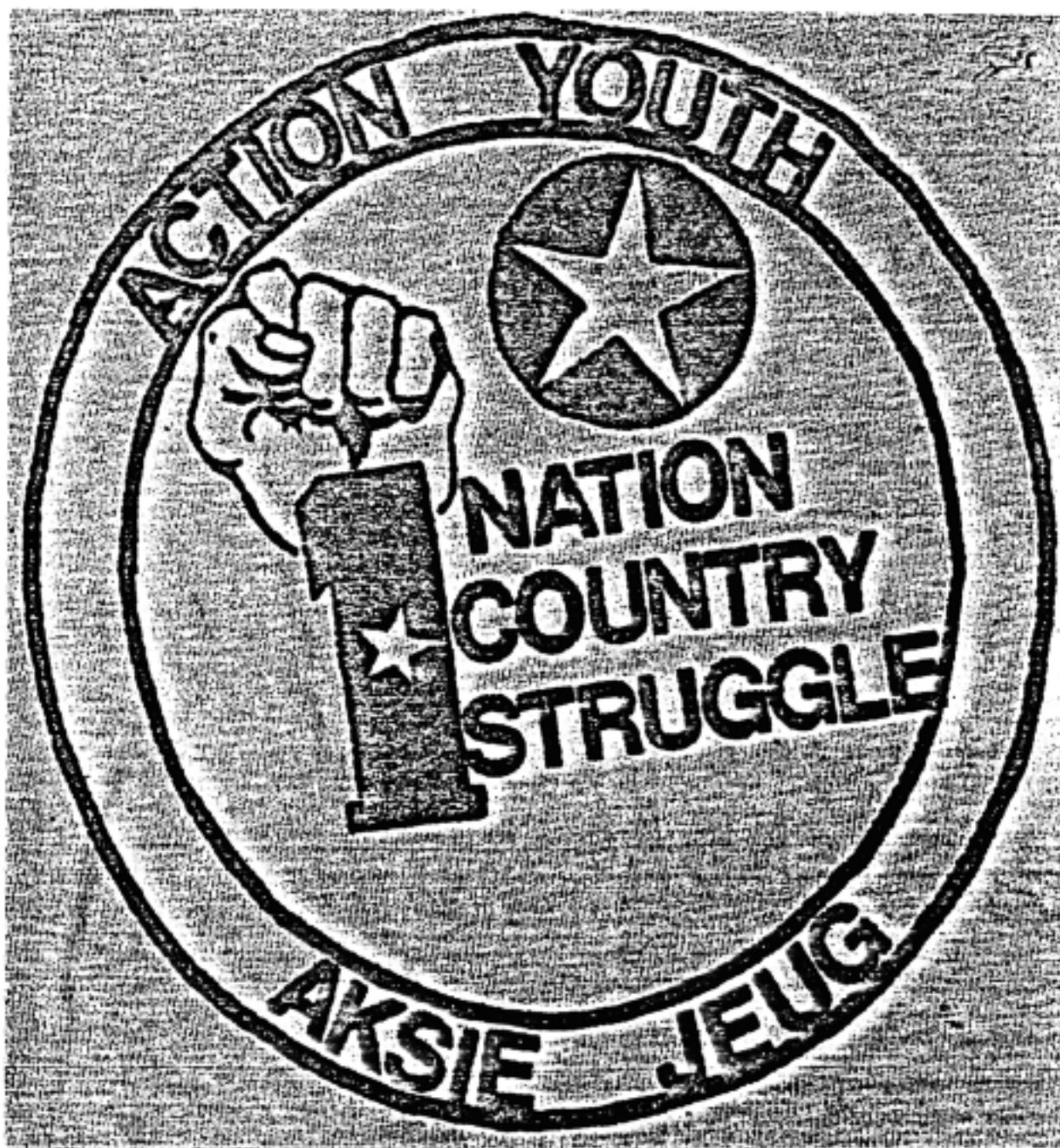
OUR HUMAN RIGHTS

In order to achieve our goals on the basis of these principles, we pledge ourselves to struggle tirelessly for

- * The right work.
- * State provision of free and compulsory education for all.
- * Education shall be geared towards liberating the Azanian people from all forms of oppression, exploitation and ignorance.
- * State provision of adequate and decent housing for all.
- * State provision of free health, legal, recreational and other community services that will respond positively to the needs of the people.

OUR IMMEDIATE DEMANDS

- * The abolition of all laws that discriminate against our people on the basis of colour, sex, class, religion or language.
- * The abolition of all influx control measures and pass laws.
- * The right to form trade unions that will heighten revolutionary worker consciousness.
- * The abolition of all resettlement and group areas removals.
- * Reintegration of the bantustan human dumping grounds into a united Azania.





ARISE!/VUKA

is an initiative by working, unemployed and student youth residing in Soweto, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, Riverlea, Rossmore and Fordsburg.

ARISE!/VUKA

is the newspaper of ACTION YOUTH. The principles of ACTION YOUTH are:

- anti - racism
- anti - imperialism
- anti - ethnicity
- anti - collaboration
- anti - sexism
- paramountcy of working-class interest and ideas
- democratic criticism - self-criticism

ACTION YOUTH is affiliated to the National Forum.

ARISE!/VUKA

in its coverage and analysis will focus on the actual struggles taking place inside South Africa, to all the organisations of the people, and independent black trade unions which are leading the struggles in our country we give our critical support.

ARISE!/VUKA

While focusing its coverage mainly on South Africa nevertheless gives support to the national and class struggles in Grenada, El Salvador, Eritrea, Palestine, Poland, Namibia, Guyana and all other struggles of oppressed and exploited peoples, and give critical support to Cuba, Nicaragua, Angola, Mozambique, China, Zimbabwe and all other third world countries in which the ruling parties are engaged in the process of socialist reconstruction.

ARISE!/VUKA

believes support for us must be critical in order to be meaningful and constructive.

ACTION YOUTH MEMBER'S

POETRY

NEVER GIVE UP

NEVER GIVE UP
NEVER GIVE IN
FOR YOU MAY DROWN IN A SEA OF APATHY.

WHAT CAN WE DO?
YOU MAY CRY
FOR WE ARE FEW
AND WE ARE WEAK.

BUT A FUSE IS SMALL
AND A FUSE IS WEAK
YET A FUSE HAS STRENGTH
BELYING IT SIZE.

SO, NEVER GIVE UP
NEVER GIVE IN
FOR YOU ARE THE FUSE
SURROUNDED BY A SEA OF EXPLOSIVES.

THE KNOCK

AN EXPLOSION OF SOUND
SQUEEZES INTO YOUR BRAIN

GRABS IT WITH BOTH HANDS
WRINGS IT, SQUASHES IT, CRUSHES IT

LIFTING YOUR BODY WITH IT
PROPELLING YOU UPRIGHT IN YOUR BED -
A QUIVERING MASS OF FEAR

THE GUTTERAL COMMANDS ARE UNNECESSARY
YOU KNOW, THE HYENAS ARE HERE!



From: DEFIANCE

You may fasten my chains
Deprive me of my books and tobacco
You may fill my mouth with earth
Poetry will feed my heart, like blood
It is salt to the bread
And liquid to the eye
I will write it with nails,
eye sockets and daggers
I will recite it in my prison cell—
in the bathroom—
in the stable—
Under the whip—
Under the chains—
In spite of my handcuffs
I have a million nightingales
On the branches of my heart
Singing the song of liberation.

By Mahmoud Darweesh
a Palestinian poet

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2001

Comment and
criticism
welcome!

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