

APARTHEID AND THE DOLE



Unemployment in Britain: 2 million out of 26 million
Unemployment in South Africa: 3 million out of 8 million
The same crisis. The same bosses.



Most of the big corporations making British workers redundant – BOC, British Leyland, BSC, Courtaulds, Dunlop, GKN, ICI, Lucas – operate in South Africa. Between May 1979 and June 1980, 150,000 jobs were destroyed in Britain by employers with investments in South Africa. And there *is* a connection. The giant multinationals have a free hand when deciding which factories to close and where to open new ones. Workers have no control over this process. **In South Africa, the apartheid system provides the bosses with lots of cheap labour – in other words, with opportunities to make huge profits. So they invest there instead of in Britain.**

Black workers in South Africa are paid starvation wages and their struggles for better conditions are systematically smashed: every way they turn they are denied basic political rights.

The apartheid state attempts to control every aspect of trade union activity. Many trade union organisers have been banned or imprisoned under South African laws.

The movement of workers is heavily restricted by the 'Pass Laws'. 'Surplus labour' is expelled to the barren wastelands called 'bantustans'.

Black people do not vote; their political parties are suppressed. Black protest against apartheid is met with police bullets. In 1976, over 1,000 people, mainly schoolchildren, were shot to death in the black slum townships by the South African police.

All this makes investment in South Africa an attractive proposition for multinational corporations.

APARTHEID and the WORKERS' STRUGGLE

This year South Africa has seen massive action by black workers for higher wages and union recognition. It takes great courage to organise in the face of armed police. We must support these struggles: only if black South African workers are victorious can the multinational corporations be prevented from closing down British factories in order to profit from cheap labour elsewhere.

The apartheid system is maintained through *direct* military support from the same companies which make huge profits out of black labour.

British Leyland supplies Land Rovers to the police and army.

ICI produces CS gas for use against black demonstrators.

BP and Shell fuel the war drives of South Africa into neighbouring black states like Angola.

ICL provides computers to run the 'Pass Laws'.

Trafalgar House helped South Africa to build nuclear weapons.

RTZ steals uranium from South African-occupied Namibia for processing at the Springfields plant in Preston.

These are the same companies which hire and fire at will in their pursuit of profit — here and in South Africa.

British workers must struggle in solidarity with the black workers of South Africa.

NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS AFFILIATED TO THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

Association of Broadcasting Staff, ACTT, APEX, ASLEF, ASTMS, AUEW (Engineering), AUEW (Foundry), AUEW (TASS), AUEW (Construction), COHSE, CPISA, Fire Brigades Union, Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union, NUGMW, Inland Revenue Staff Federation, Musicians' Union, NALGO, National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, NUAAW, NUM, NUPE, National Union of Seamen, National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, NUR, NATSOPA, NGA, National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, POEU, SCPS, SLADE, TGWU, Tobacco Workers Union, UCATT, UCW, USDAW.

I wish to join/affiliate to Merseyside Anti-Apartheid

Individual (name).....(at £1 subscription or 50p if unwaged)

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