

# A MESSAGE TO DELEGATES



## TWO CURRENT CASE STUDIES OF APARTHEID IN PRACTICE

1) Since 1974 the 100% British owned Smith and Nephew (South Africa) has recognised the South African National Union of Textile Workers. Smith and Nephew (whose parent company is of the same name) is the only British company of over 600 operating in South Africa to recognise an African trade union.

But now, Smith and Nephew, apparently under pressure from the South African Government, has revoked its agreement with the NUTW and looks as if it will opt instead for a government preferred "liaison committee" - by no means a trade union, indeed such committees are intended to undermine genuine trade unionism.

In Britain Smith and Nephew employs at least 4,000 people. The NUTW has appealed to them, and the wider labour movement here, for support. For the South African apartheid regime to secure an end to recognition would be a major victory. NUTW has developed into an open non-racial union, with Indian, African and Coloured members. The Government has already banned two men associated with NUTW from trade union activity for 5 years.

You can support Smith and Nephew employees in South Africa by:

/ PTO



# the Anti-Apartheid Movement

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- \* writing in protest to the UK management (who are taking the decisions for their subsidiary)
- \* protesting to the Department of Trade and Industry - who advise British companies to recognise African trade unions.
- \* taking the matter up within your union

## AND BRITISH LEYLAND . . . . .

Last month British Leyland announced that they would be importing 40,000 sub-frame spares for their Austin 1100 range from their South African subsidiary.

This comes none-months after Leyland (South Africa) refused to recognise the Metal and Allied Workers Union, an African union with 90% membership in the firm's Mobeni plant. Subsequently, the General Secretary of that union, Alpheus Mthetwa, was banned from trade union activity for five years by the Government.

Yet, Leyland are actually speeding up their investment in South Africa. While closing down operations elsewhere, such as Italy and Australia, this publicly controlled concern has just announced the opening of a new Rover 3500 production line there

The British Leyland Trade Union Committee and the Anti-Apartheid Movement have decided to launch a joint campaign to end South

Africa's links with Leyland and specifically -

- \* to protest at Mthetwa's banning
- \* \* to end all spare part exchange in both directions
- \* for recognition of MAWU

## Join the Campaign

Write to the Department of Trade and Industry  
~~Raise~~ the matter in your union  
Write to British Leyland in protest  
Send messages of support to BLTUC, c/o AAM

Further information on these and other British companies in South Africa and wages, conditions and denial of trade union rights are available from AAM, together with a list of all companies with subsidiaries and associate companies operating there.

## WHY IT MATTERS

African workers in South Africa are effectively denied the right to organise in trade unions and to take industrial action. Paid poverty wages, subject to discrimination by white workers eager to maintain their privileged position, working in appalling conditions and denied access to political power, many of them work for British companies.

Britain has a major responsibility for their oppression / PTO

- \* 60% of all investment in South Africa is from Britain
- \* Britain is still South Africa's biggest trading partner
- \* half the emigrant to South Africa - who take jobs reserved for white in most cases - are from Britain.
- \* the military might of the South African armed forces is enhanced by British equipment, despite the Government's loophole ridden "embargo"
- \* many of the major bank loans that sustain apartheid are from British banks.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement, a broad based organisation with 24 national trade union affiliates and members on an individual branch and trades council basis running into the thousands, works to support the people of Southern Africa and provide assistance to the cause of freedom there. To help the people there :

- \* get you union branch or other body to join the AAM - and join yourself: this costs £5 p.a. and in return you get regular campaigning information and our newspaper, Anti-Apartheid News.
- \* contact AAM for a speaker, film or literature
- \* contact any of AAM's 50 local groups in different parts of the country.

AAM calls on the British Government to -

- + FREEZE ALL INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA
- + SECURE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL BRITISH FIRMS, ESPECIALLY NATIONALISED CORPORATIONS.

We are launching a campaign to press the Government to take these steps and ensure British companies recognise African trade unions.

If you are interested the AAM Trade Union Officer, Chris Child, would be happy to be in touch.