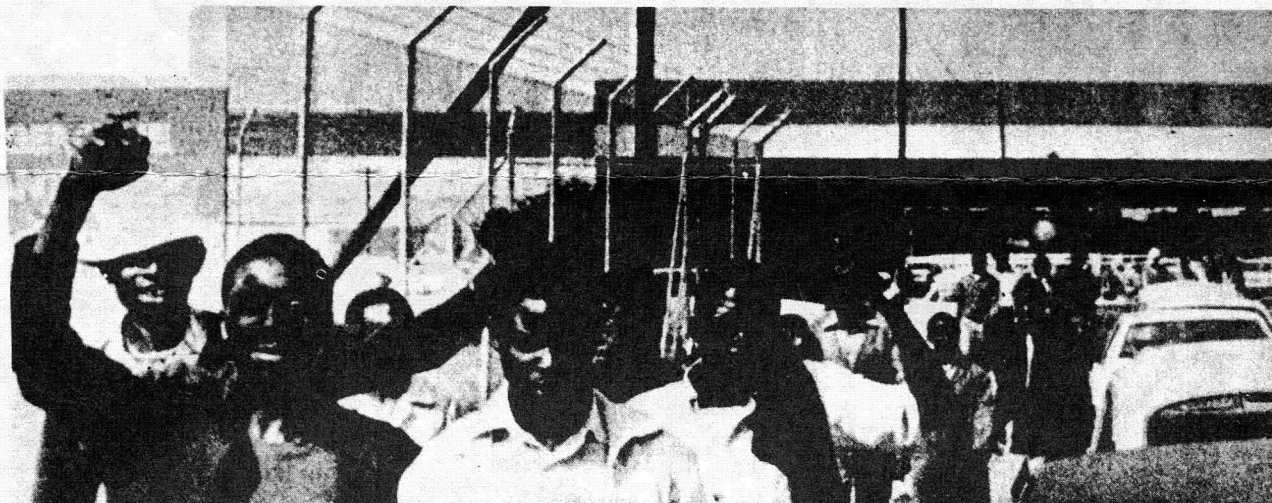


# DUNLOP - BRITAIN AND SOUTH AFRICA



1979 - Dunlop Tyres, Speke, closes - 2,400 jobs lost after a long campaign of organised resistance that spread across a massive united industrial and community front, locally, nationally and beyond.

1980 - Dunlop's golf-ball factory, Speke, closes - 240 jobs lost.

1982 - Dunlop Sementex, Brynmawr, closes, with the loss of 600 jobs.

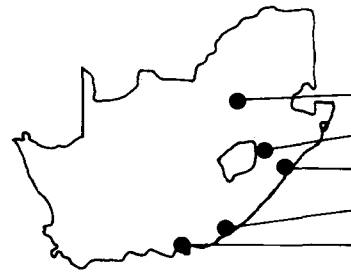
These will not be the only redundancies in Dunlop U.K. Other factories may soon find themselves threatened with closure or cut-back.

October 1981 - Dunlop Flooring (S.A.) plant in East London, South Africa; - the 500-strong workforce walked out after a dispute over pension rights during which the management refused to negotiate. Management re-advertised and filled the men's jobs with the help of the Ciskei security police who ensured that no union men were hired. The original workforce, represented by the South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU) is still on strike. The local SAAWU office in East London has recently been closed by the South African police, its leaders have been detained, and reports are coming in of their brutal torture in detention.

Between 1971 and 1980 Dunlop's U.K. workforce fell from 56,000 to 36,000, and it has continued falling in 1982. Throughout this period the rate of profit on turnover in Africa averaged 12%, more than double that in the U.K. While the proportion of total turnover coming from Africa increased by half to 12.2%, the proportion of profit coming from Africa rose from 13.6% in 1970 to a staggering 46% in 1980, when the company's U.K. operations made a huge loss.

Half of Dunlop's workforce in Africa is in South Africa. In the 1979 Chairman's Annual Report it was stated that "the results of our South African company showed further significant growth" - especially in tyre production, in a year in which the U.K. tyre division lost 4,000 jobs.

South Africa's importance in keeping Dunlop profitable is increasing. Dunlop has tyre factories at Ladysmith and Durban, an industrial products factory at Benoni, a sports goods factory at Moberi, a Dunlopillo factory at Port Elizabeth and the flooring factory at East London which is in dispute (see map).



TOWN	workforce	
	black african	all races
Benoni	622	773
Ladysmith	412	597
Durban	1251	1963
E. London	452	554
Port Elizabeth	69	242
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3059</b>	<b>4664</b>

Dunlop is able to make super-profits in South Africa because two-thirds of its workforce are Blacks, who are paid at about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the wage-rate of whites -

### MONTHLY WAGE RATES

	White	Black
Rubber	£488	£129
Plastic	£528	£129

Dunlops pay a minimum wage of R35.77 (about £20) for a 45 hour week. South Africa has a higher cost of living than the U.K.

## Distribution of population, 1976

	Number	Percentage
Africans	18,600,000	71.3
Whites	4,300,000	16.4
Coloureds	2,400,000	9.5
Indians	750,000	2.8

South Africa's Apartheid is the most refined and codified system of racism ever devised, with a language to match. No company can operate there without supporting this system and the brutal regime which operates it.

Only whites have the vote; 87% of the land is reserved for them, as are skilled and bosses' jobs. The Black unemployment rate is over 25%, yet (White) immigration from Britain is encouraged to fill skilled and professional jobs.

The Black majority's 13% of the land - fragmented rural slum areas - is being forced into 'independence' as tribal bantustans or homelands. For instance the Ciskei, near the White town of East London where Dunlop has its Floorings plant, was made 'independent' on 4/12/81. Blacks forced into the bantustans are stripped of South African citizenship and can only work, live, or travel in white areas with a 'Pass'. Over 1,000 arrests are made daily for Pass Law 'offences'. Families are split up. People are forced into 'migrant labour'.

Since 1967 industry has been induced by tax concessions and large grants to set up in 'border areas' alongside bantustans and near supplies of super-cheap labour. Dunlop Flooring opened in East London in 1971 under this scheme.

Industrial life is increasingly militarised. White workers are being trained and armed as 'Industrial Commandoes' to protect plants against 'civil, labour or terrorist attacks'. All (White) immigrants under 25 are liable for military service after 2 years' residence. Senior directors from a number of multinationals and all major South African monopolies are on the Defence Advisory Council, and a series of laws has given the South African Ministry of Defence virtually total power over private industry.

## PROFITS IN SOUTH AFRICA?



*Pensioners stand for hours before getting money*

### PENSIONS

Monthly pension from Oct 1st 1980

White	£66
Coloured/Indian	£38
African	£20

PENSIONS ARE NORMALLY PAYABLE AT 65

AVERAGE BLACK LIFE EXPECTANCY IS 50

Widespread strike action in 1981 forced the South African regime to drop proposed new pensions legislation. Like others, Dunlop Flooring workers wanted the right to negotiate Pension Fund rules, including the right to cash in pension contributions immediately on leaving a job. Pension contributions are all deducted from workers' wages - there's no employer contribution - and are workers' only personal savings. Over half the pension schemes have no policy on transferability of benefits. Many firms keep inadequate employee records, so unless payment is made immediately entitlement is often impossible to prove. Even when accumulated pension can be claimed, it's paid back at an interest rate lower than bank rate - and inflation in South Africa is currently over 16%.

Throughout the 1981 dispute, Dunlop management tried to deceive and intimidate workers about the company's pension fund rules.

## TRADE UNION RIGHTS

The overwhelming majority of Black workers are -

denied recognition of their trade unions

denied the right to any part in collective bargaining - their wages & conditions are set by white employers & white unions.

effectively denied the right to strike, sit-in or go-slow

liable to arrest, imprisonment, banishment from cities - even execution - for trade union or strike activities

But strike action and union organisation are increasing. In the first two months of 1981 there were more than half as many strikes as in all of 1979. SAAWU, founded in 1980, had 20,000 members in East London, including 75% of the Dunlop Flooring workers, by late 1981.

Like the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), SAAWU is one of the democratic unions operating in South Africa which is non-racial and refuses to be compromised by the regime: SACTU has been forced to operate underground and in exile since 1964.

We believe that South Africa has got a non-racial future - we have looked beyond the horizon and we want to start right away now in organising our people in conformity with a future non-racial South Africa. We believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it - Black or White. The future of South Africa is in the hands of its workers - only the workers in alliance with all other progressive minded sections of the community can build a happy life for all South Africans. But workers should be the vanguard.

(SOUTH AFRICAN ALLIED WORKERS UNION)

Concessions have been wrung from employers and the regime by determined and united industrial and community action. The price is harsher repression. Leaders and members of SAAWU have been systematically harassed and terrorised by South African and Ciskeian police. Mass arrests of SAAWU and other unionists took place in 1981. SAAWU President, 29 year old Thozamile Gqweta narrowly escaped from his burning house in March. In Nov. his mother and uncle were burnt to death and his girlfriend, returning from their funeral, was shot dead by police. A few days after Ciskeian 'independence' in December, Gqweta was arrested in East London, together with SAAWU's Vice-President.

The East London dispute is important for all Dunlop workers. Dunlop's South African connection is important for all British workers. Chasing profit anywhere, Dunlop and other multinationals, supported by British governments, are throwing us out of work, conniving at racial discrimination here, and destroying the economies of our industrial areas. Meanwhile they support the fascist, militarist regime in Apartheid South Africa. They can only get away with this as long as we fail to respond to the repeated calls by SACTU and the non-racial unions in South Africa for international support. Action is needed this year to make the United Nations Year of Mobilisation for Sanctions Against South Africa effective.

This resolution was carried unanimously by the TUC, Sept '81 -

Congress welcomes the development of independent black trade unions in South Africa.

This is part of the process of national liberation in Southern Africa.

Congress in particular condemns the South African intransigence over Namibia and affirms its support for SWAPO in its struggle for genuine independence.

Congress recognises that the policies of the government of South Africa pose a growing threat to international peace and security and condemns its acts of aggression against Angola and other neighbouring independent states.

Congress condemns the use by Britain of its Security Council veto power to block United Nations sanctions against South Africa. Congress pledges its support for the total isolation of the apartheid regime, including the imposition of mandatory United Nations economic sanctions against South Africa.

These words will be very difficult to make effective if the Tebbit Bill becomes law.

"The United Kingdom South Africa Trade Association's 16th annual council luncheon was held at the Cafe Royal yesterday. The Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa was guest of honour. The guest speaker was Sir Campbell Fraser, Chairman, Dunlop Holdings Ltd." - Daily Telegraph, 25/II/81

"No-one is safe from the multinationals. The only way to combat them is by concerted joint action" - Engineering convenor, Dunlop, Speke, March 1979.

"...it must never be forgotten that Apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa, like everywhere else, has an aim far more important than discrimination itself: the aim is economic exploitation. The root and fruit of apartheid and racial discrimination is profit." -

Mark Shope, SACTU, 1964

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

MERSEYSIDE ANTI-APARTHEID INDUSTRY GROUP asks you to support SACTU's call for international solidarity by -

1. affiliating your TU branch or political organisation, or join as an individual
2. making generous donations to SACTU's Strike Fund
3. helping us to sell "Workers' Unity", the SACTU paper
4. giving us any information you may have about Dunlop's connections with S. Africa, and supporting SAAWU's call for a boycott of Dunlop S.A.'s raw materials and products
5. inviting Anti-Apartheid speakers to meetings

JOIN MERSEYSIDE ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP

Send this form to The Secretary, Merseyside AA Group, c/o 70 Victoria St., Liverpool 1

Name .....

Address.....

Subscription - £3 - organisation  
 £1 - individual ; 50p - unwaged.