

# **SOUTH AFRICA TODAY**

THE pernicious influence of Dr. Verwoerd is spreading. He has virtually annexed South West Africa and is strengthening his ties with the Europeans in Southern Rhodesia and with the Portuguese masters in Angola and Mozambique.

An unholy alliance is emerging in the Southern part of Africa which will create an explosion point as dangerous in Africa as Berlin in Europe.

Internal opposition is ruthlessly suppressed. The principal African organisations are banned. Demonstrations are broken and Africans are being killed. Violence did not end with Sharpeville. African trade unions are not recognised. Unemployment increases as jobs are reserved for whites.

**THE SITUATION IS EXPLOSIVE BUT THERE IS HOPE:** Economic action throughout the world can convince Verwoerd's supporters that apartheid means financial ruin.

**WORLD PRESSURE IS ESSENTIAL.** In 1960 the United Nations passed a resolution calling for "individual and collective action"—now the pressure is for economic sanctions against the South African Government.

Britain—which imports one-third of South African exports—is in a key position. Britain **MUST** support sanctions against South Africa. This is not an issue on which we can any longer sit on the fence.

**THE LABOUR MOVEMENT HAS IT  
IN ITS POWER TO HELP CHANGE  
SOUTH AFRICA**

# WHAT HAS HAPPENED ALREADY

In April, 1959, the non-white majority of South Africa's peoples appealed to the world to launch a boycott of South African goods. They did this knowing the hardships it might cause but argued that no hardship was too severe if it brought freedom nearer:

In response to this appeal the Boycott Movement was formed in Britain in April, 1959. With the support of Churchmen, Trade Unionists and members of all political parties short of Mosley, it ran the successful Boycott Campaign in March, 1960.

## **The Anti-Apartheid Movement :**

But in March, 1960, 72 Africans were shot down in Sharpeville and Langa. The intensive boycott campaign was over at the end of March but the need for further action was imperative—so the Boycott Movement expanded into the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

On the same broad basis as before, its aims were :—

**To assist those struggling for freedom in South Africa.**

**To respond to their appeals.**

**To pass these on to the British public.**

**To take every possible action against apartheid.**

**To extend the boycott.**

# SOUTH AFRICA AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

The Labour Party and the T.U.C. supported the Boycott Campaign. HUGH GAITSKELL at the rally launching the said that he believed the issue to be one of the most vital in the world today.

At last year's Labour Party conference BARBARA CASTLE appealed for greater support for boycott. She said eventually there might have to be economic sanctions. "While we are waiting for Labour's voice to be heard in the United Nations, let us throw ourselves into the individual effort to stand by human rights."

## **What Happened ?**

**Over 20 Labour-controlled Councils boycotted South African goods in March, 1960.**

**Over 20 Co-operative Societies enforced the Boycott. Hundreds of thousands of leaflets and information sheets were distributed.**

**Meetings and Poster Parades were held all over the country by Constituency Labour Parties and Trade Unions, and by local joint committees.**

**Money was raised for victims of apartheid.**

## **THE EFFECT OF BRITISH ACTION**

British action stimulated overseas action. The South African Minister of Transport, Mr. Schoeman, said :

**“ If these boycott movements gain momentum and get more support South Africa could be placed in a very bad way economically.”**

The moral effect was indisputable. In Britain, the Conservative LORD ALTRINCHAM said that the campaign made millions of people alive to an issue about which they had previously been ignorant and apathetic.

From South Africa came letters from opponents of apartheid. Whether African, Asian, Coloured or European, they all expressed their gratitude. For the first time, they said, the voice of the world had been heard in South Africa. It had given them new hope and inspiration in their uphill struggle.

## **SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MOVEMENT**

The I.C.F.T.U. passed a resolution calling on its members to start Boycott Movements in their countries. Boycotts were launched, among others, by :—

**The A.F.L. and the C.I.O. in the United States.**

**The West German Federation of Trade Unions.**

**The Ghana T.U.C.**

**The General Council of Japanese Trade Unions.**

**The Kenya Federation of Labour.**

**Trade Unions in all the Scandinavian countries.**

Dockers in Trinidad refused to handle South African goods, the West Indies being one of the countries which imposed a Government boycott.

# **ACTION**

## **Here and Now**

### **We must press the Government :**

To ban arms sales to South Africa.

To vote for economic sanctions against South Africa in the United Nations.

To end bilateral trade agreements with Verwoerd.

To vote in the United Nations for the withdrawal of South Africa's mandate over South West Africa.

To assist the High Commission territories to become outposts of freedom in Southern Africa.

### **As individuals we must :**

Boycott South African goods in factory and office canteens, as well as in your home.

Ask your local Co-operative Society to buy alternative goods.

Ask your local Council to enforce the boycott.

Discuss Trade Union action in our branches and support international trade union action.

Raise funds for the relief of victims of apartheid.

Raise funds for political action.

If you need information about any aspect of the South African situation, well-informed speakers from South Africa, details of films or exhibitions about apartheid, leaflets, posters, pamphlets; or if you want to help us, please contact The Anti-Apartheid Movement, 15, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1  
(Tel.: EUSton 5786)