

TUC POLICY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. (Adopted at the 1969, 1971, 1972 Congresses)

- * Strongly discourages British workers from emigrating to South Africa
- * Opposes the sale of arms to South Africa
- * Urges affiliated unions not to invest in firms with South African subsidiaries
- * Opposes any sell-out of the peoples of Rhodesia
- * Calls for the breaking of links with white-only South African trade unions
- * Supports, both morally and materially, the Southern African liberation movements.

At Geneva in June 1973 representatives of 180 million workers from ICFTU, WFTU, and WCL affiliated unions attended the ILO/UN sponsored International Trade Union Conference Against Apartheid. This conference, with the support of the TUC representatives, unanimously adopted a resolution setting out a comprehensive programme of action to isolate the South African apartheid regime politically, economically and militarily, and to support the struggle of the South African people for democratic rights, including workers' rights.

BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, IT IS
INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT THAT
CURRENT TUC POLICIES AND THE
GENEVA RESOLUTION ARE IMPLEMENTED.

BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

British big business has over £2000 million invested in South Africa, reaping fat profits from the vicious apartheid system. The Press has exposed the appalling wages paid by the 500-odd British firms in South Africa, showing the real reason these firms operate in apartheid South Africa is that it consistently provides amongst the highest rates of profit available to British capital.

TRADE UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The registered unions, although they have Indian and Coloured members, are white-dominated and act mainly in the interests of the white workers. Some African unions exist but only under the most difficult conditions. They cannot be registered and thus receive no legal protection. African strikes are illegal under most circumstances. Many African trade union leaders have been imprisoned, and some executed. The non-racial South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) has borne the brunt of the attacks on African workers. From 1960-65 over 160 SACTU officials were imprisoned or banned. Recent legislation to allow for works and liaison committees for African workers does not help. These laws will merely lead to 'house unions' whose leaders will be easy targets for police repression.

THE 1973 TUC DELEGATION TO SOUTH AFRICA

One of the proposals contained in the delegation's report stresses the need to end emigration to South Africa. This must be welcomed.

The remaining three proposals appear to accept the oppressive apartheid system, and to be implemented must inevitably mean working within the apartheid system. These proposals would therefore not be effective in furthering the struggle to obtain trade union and political rights for the African people.

In particular, the proposal on investment seeks to qualify the opposition to British investment, if British companies encourage African trade unions. But have employers anywhere ever encouraged trade unions? British investment in South Africa should be opposed without qualification.

There should be no collaboration with apartheid.

The ILO/UN Conference resolution answers as never before the question -

WHAT CAN BRITISH WORKERS DO TO

COMBAT APARTHEID?

It should form the basis from which we continue our opposition to apartheid.

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