

## autumn 1986 newsletter

# DOCK Sanctions need not Cost Jobs

The political and moral argument for sanctions against South Africa has clearly been won so much so, that leading members of the government recognise their correctness. However, for national sanctions to be implemented we must not be complacent and rely solely on international pressure on Mrs Thatcher to bring them about. It is in this light that Bristol AAM welcomes the recent decision of the Council to strengthen its apartheid free policy to include the Port of Bristol. This is not Bristol going it alone as some have argued but is part of the mounting pressure nationwide on our government.

It is also clear that translating this policy into practice requires care and must involve full consultation with those most directly affected by the action. We cannot expect a small group of workers to suffer on behalf of what is our collective responsibility. Bristol AAM understands and accepts the concern of those whose employment may be directly affected by any ban. However, we believe we are not faced with an all or nothing situation where jobs are posed against sanctions. A firm commitment to the phased breaking of Bristol's links with apartheid without job losses can and must be achieved. For example, the recent ban, albeit limited, on coal imports need not cause job losses as there are plenty of alternative suppliers. Also Britain has become so isolated internationally that the potentially irreparable damage to our trade reputation and influence because we collaborate with apartheid is hard to quantify. The recent lessons of the Commonwealth Games and Howe's debacle of a visit to Southern Africa must be learnt and our short-sighted, blinkered vision of British trading interests ended.

In relation to the Port of Bristol and the recent Docks Management Committee decision to seek the reversal of the Council's decision, Bristol AAM urges the Council and the Unions involved to:-

1. Reaffirm their commitment to sanctions against South Africa and the need for the phased cessation of trade with apartheid. Any steps in this direction only to be taken with the full agreement of the relevant trade unions.
2. Agree to an immediate ban on any new trade with South Africa and Namibia.
3. Monitor all existing trade through the Port of Bristol.
4. Seek the national agreement of the relevant trade unions and the TUC that any trade boycotted by the Port of Bristol would not be transferred to another port.
5. Ask the Docks Management to seek alternatives to the South African and Namibian trade.
6. Request those companies who use the Port of Bristol for trade with South Africa to use alternative suppliers.



## Churches step up solidarity

In South Africa, numerous clergy and lay workers from all denominations have, like trade unionists, been singled out for attack. The Catholic Bishop's Conference in South Africa has called for sanctions and its well known General Secretary, Fr. Mangaliso Mkatshwa has again been detained. A former political prisoner, he has been listed by Amnesty International as being at special risk of torture. Similarly, Fr. Siphoshe Masemola, who visited Bristol this year was also listed but has now been released.

Recently, Archbishop Desmond Tutu visited Wales. He has continued, like the Rev. Alan Boesak, to ignore restrictions imposed on him by the State of Emergency. He implored the audience of over 10,000 to "put pressure on Mrs Thatcher" as "ordinary people".

## Peoples Sanctions

Because of the intransigence of our present government there has been a move towards "peoples sanctions". One of the most effective ways to implement them is for communities to set up Apartheid Free Zones in their local areas. A notable example of such a campaign is the St Pauls Campaign which began in June 1985. To date 21 shops out of the 24 in St Pauls have signed the SPAFZC declaration banning South African goods from their shelves. The shops who haven't signed are: Kiosk newsagents, Ashley Rd PO. and Buds green-grocers (all in Sussex Place). All 7 pubs have also signed the declaration.

Since then initiatives in other areas of Bristol have been started. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact the campaign in their area. If there isn't one in your area yet, consider setting one up!

Bristol AAM will be hosting a meeting on Mon 6 Oct at Shepherds Hall, Old Market at 7.30pm on Apartheid Free Zones. It is hoped that both those who are already involved and those who want to get involved in campaigns will attend to share ideas and tactics.

The Church is becoming increasingly active with regard to South Africa and Bristol is no exception. June 15 & 16 was marked as a day of prayer and fasting for South Africa. In Bristol, a special ecumenical service of solidarity was addressed by a South African exile, in Parkway Methodist Church. £130 was raised on that occasion for the families of detainees. Their needs are so great that Christian Aid has just launched a special nationwide appeal.

On June 16, to commemorate the anniversary of Soweto, The president of Bristol AAM, Bishop Peter Firth and the Dean of the Cathedral led a procession of 100 people to the cenotaph to lay yellow lilies. From June 16 to 26, Bristol Cathedral displayed a banner which read "Release All Political Prisoners", while inside, the Peace Chapel also had a South African focus.

### Public Meeting

SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE CONFLICT SPREADS

30TH SEPTEMBER  
7:30 SHEPHERD'S HALL

Bristol AAM is following the initiative of the St Pauls Apartheid Free Zone Campaign (SPAFZC) in an attempt to persuade Bristol shops to become "Apartheid Free". The first step is being taken in Broadmeads, where all the shops have been sent a letter asking them to remove South African and Namibian goods from their shelves and to consider implementing a local and national policy against stocking these goods. The present known positions taken by various shops is as follows:

The Co-op, Hepworth & Next, BHS and C&A have a policy against stocking South African goods. Eastville Tescos have recently taken the decision to ban South African goods on that site. Sainsburys, Liptons and Tescos nationally all have policies of "seeking alternatives where possible". Shops which have no South African policy and consequently sell South African produce are; the John Lewis Partnership (including Waitrose), Austin Reed, Burtons, Selfridges, Debenhams and Marks & Spencers.

Once the shops begin responding to the letter, the type and number of South African goods remaining on their shelves need to be detailed. Anyone interested in helping with this survey should contact Steve on 421044.

## APARTHEID'S 2nd FRONT:

Images of Mozambique

A Photographic Exhibition

1st - 23rd AUGUST

Mon - Sat

10am - 6pm



Full Marks Bookshop  
37 Stokes Croft Bristol 1  
Tel 40491

# Trade Unions

A key factor in the emerging crisis facing South Africa has been the tremendous upsurge in trade union activity, culminating in December last year with the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). During the recent State of Emergency it was many of these new union leaders who faced the brunt of the State's repressive actions because of their potential threat to the apartheid regime. Union membership has dramatically increased as has industrial militancy. Many unions are now officially recognised by their employers. The recent miners strike is a clear demonstration of this new found power. Importantly, COSATU has indicated its support for the ANC and SACTU leadership and echoed the call for sanctions. These developments along with the need for direct action by trade unionists in Britain to impose "peoples sanctions" have highlighted the need for the AAM to extend and strengthen its work in the trade union movement.

At a national level great strides have been made. There have been the notable industrial actions by dockers in Southampton, health workers in Plymouth and the internationally famous Dunnes strikers from Ireland, all resulting from a refusal to handle South African goods. The TUC has also adopted a militant policy of support for the ANC, SACTU and has called for both the government and its affiliated unions to impose sanctions.

At a regional level, Bristol AAM two years ago set up the South West Regional AAM Trade Union Committee. This has received sponsorship and support from the S.W. Regional TUC and now has over 20 affiliated trade unions and trade councils in the South West. It has organised 2 successful speaking tours for SACTU in the SW area. It also produced a broadsheet entitled "Sanctions Now" for trade unionists. On 8 November, in the Council House, Bristol, the Committee along with the SW Regional TUC is organising a delegate conference for trade unionists to examine how to translate political opposition to apartheid into direct action and "peoples sanctions". Details of this conference and how to affiliate to the Committee can be obtained from the secretary: Bevis Miller, Pound Farm Cottage, Priddy, Somerset, BA5 3BE.

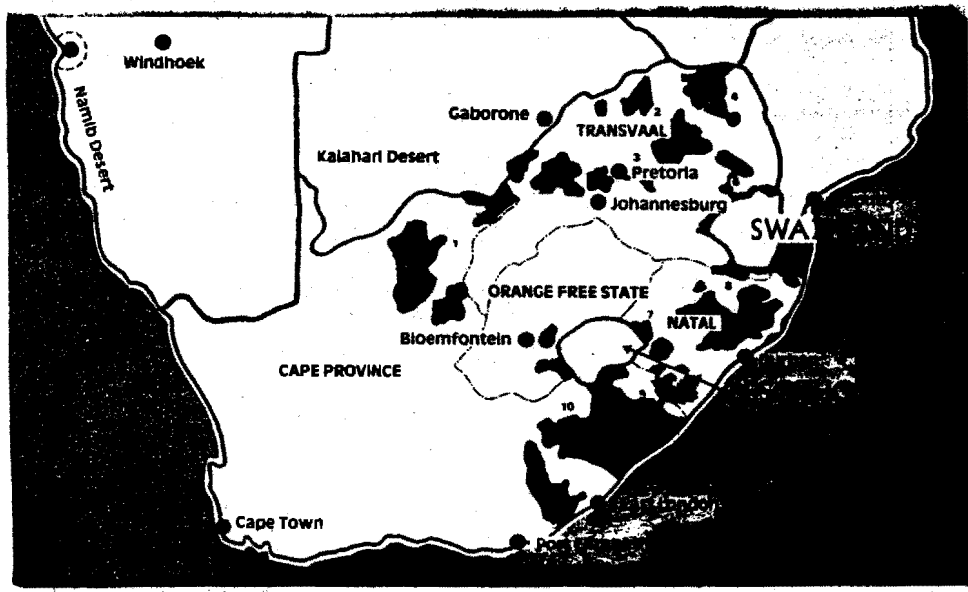
# NO to Apartheid Executions

On December 13, 1985, 6 young South Africans were sentenced to death for their alleged involvement in the death of the Deputy Mayor of Sharpville, one of the so called 'community councillors' who are widely regarded as collaborators with the apartheid system. These 6 have joined 3 other young South Africans on 'death row'. The others are Siphon Xulu and Clarence Payi, sentenced to death on 26 February 1985 and Andrew Zondo, given 5 death sentences in April this year.

Support from organisations and individuals from all over the world will be necessary to save the lives of these 9 people facing execution. Write now to P.W. Botha, Louis Le Grange (SA Minister of Law and Order), Sir Geoffrey Howe and your local M.P. urging them to take appropriate action. Contact Rachel on 40344 or SATIS on 01-387-7966 for further information on this campaign.



# HOMELANDS



- 1 Bophuthatswana
- 2 Lebowa
- 3 KwaNdebele
- 4 Gazankulu
- 5 Venda
- 6 Kangwane
- 7 Qwa Qwa
- 8 Kwazulu
- 9 Transkei
- 10 Ciskei

Now battles against apartheid are being waged at a mass level inside the homelands challenging the very foundations of apartheid. The style of anti-apartheid organisations in the homelands have much in common with those in the townships. Aid workers in the homeland of Lebowa have

said that popular resistance and police repression on this activism have reached unprecedented levels. These organisations take up both national and local issues, such as education and misuse of public funds. -Synopsis taken from the "Star" a South African paper, 21 April, 1986.

## DIARY

- 1-23 Aug Exhibition on Mozambique - Full Marks Bookshop, Stokes Croft
- Sat 30 Aug Bath AAM are organising a day on South Africa. Events take place at Long Acre Hall, London Rd, Bath. Contact Penny on Bath 65477.
- Mon 1 Sept Bristol AAM General Meeting. 7.30pm, Shepherd's Hall  
"Sanctions Update" - discussion + planning meeting
- Tues 30 Sept Bristol AAM Public Meeting. 7.30pm Shepherd's Hall  
"Southern Africa: the conflict spreads." <sup>Angolan embassy?</sup> <sup>SWAPO?</sup>
- Mon 6 Oct Bristol AAM General Meeting. 7.30pm Shepherd's Hall  
"Apartheid Free Zones" - discussion + campaigning meeting <sup>St Paul's speaker</sup>
- Sat 8 Nov Trade Union Delegate Conference. Council House, Bristol.  
(Pamphlet of alternative shopping)

I want to help the fight against apartheid. My donation is for £.....

I would like information about how I can campaign against apartheid

I would like to be a member of Bristol AAM.

Membership is £2/£1 unwaged.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Membership Secretary, Bristol AAM, GARDEN Floor Flat, 26 Arley Hill, Cotham, Bristol, BS6.

