

"An injury to one is an injury to all"

# WORKERS' UNITY

Organ of the South African Congress of Trade Unions

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## The work should be shared!

"In the morning," said Mrs. Kumalo of Meadowlands, "I wake up at 4 o'clock and I get myself ready. Then at half past four I must get out of the house to the station and take the train at about ten past five. We start work at the factory in Johannesburg at 6 o'clock.

"Then at 6 o'clock in the evening we knock off. Just before 8 o'clock I come back to the house. I am too tired to do anything except sleep."

Life for Mrs. Kumalo is a life lived in the service of the employer. Working and sleeping; working and sleeping — and bringing home only barely enough to keep herself and her family going until the next working day.

### Profit

This is the experience of millions of black workers in South Africa. We are oppressed by apartheid, to keep us in slavery under the profit system of the bosses.

If the bosses could have things entirely their own way, we would be slaving in the factories for 24 hours each day. But because the human body needs food and sleep (like an engine needs refuelling), the bosses

are forced to allow us some time off to eat and sleep, to gain energy for the next day's work.

They have no concern for the quality of our life, for our entertainments, sports and cultural activities. For them, the working day is the important thing, because the longer the working day the bigger the profits.

Just how far the bosses can go in robbing us of our rest depends on how organised we are, and how easily the bosses can replace us. It is a matter of constant struggle between the workers and the bosses.

### Limit

In industries where it is particularly difficult for workers to organise, or where migrant labour is used, the bosses are able to drive workers to the limit that human beings can stand. African night-watchmen, for example, are made to work 80 hours or more each week. Dock-workers endure similar working hours.

When our health is undermined through daily exhaustion, when we are no longer capable of such long hours, we are thrown into the

Bantustans like squeezed oranges. The government's labour bureaus then recruit fresh workers for the bosses to replace us.

Unskilled workers in particular are easily replaced, without the bosses losing profits.

### Force

There are a number of ways in which the bosses try to cut costs and increase profits by keeping workers on the job for long hours:

- ★ They force us to work overtime, either by threatening to sack us if we don't, or by making basic wages so low that we can only survive by working overtime.
- ★ They make us work shifts, and refuse to pay extra in the form of night-shift allowances.
- ★ They make us work on public holidays.
- ★ They rob us of proper lunch and tea breaks.
- ★ They try to prevent us from taking annual paid leave.

### Sacked

The crisis in the economy has shown all workers the way in which the bosses' profit system threatens us. To save their profits, the bosses in South Africa sacked tens of thousands of workers (mostly blacks) — and then they made the remaining workers work harder and for longer hours!

In some sectors they have man-

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But the bosses' profit system means:

unemployment for two million



## No forced overtime!

★ One of the clearest recent struggles by workers against forced overtime took place at the Swiss company, Conac Engineering, in Pietermaritzburg in 1975. At this factory workers had to work up to 84 hours a week with overtime every night and during the weekends. Time and again the workers protested against these conditions, and on 22 September, 1975, seven workers were fired for not working overtime the previous Saturday. This victimisation built up solidarity, and on 14 October all the workers refused to do overtime and were locked out. The workers demanded that negotiations take place through the Metal and Allied Workers' Union so that all workers could have a free choice on overtime. Instead the security police were called in and 64 workers were victimised. The struggle for union recognition and against forced overtime is continuing.

★ Dock-workers in Cape Town and Durban have long been demanding

that all overtime should be voluntary. They are often required to work overtime every night and a full day on Sunday. Dock-workers in Durban complain that the only rest they get is in the hospital when they are injured.

★ In the Frame Group of textile companies the managers are determined to make overtime compulsory. Weavers are not paid overtime rates or night-shift allowances, as the managers argue that weavers on piece-rates are not entitled to these allowances. In one factory the clock cards of the workers are put in the manager's pocket on Friday night so that the workers cannot clock out at the end of the day. These are the same managers who do not care if the workers miss the buses home — that's not their business, they say!

Unite in the struggle to make all overtime voluntary! Away with forced overtime!

... and overwork for others



## The work should be shared! ...

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aged to maintain production exactly as before by getting more work out of fewer workers. In many engineering factories on the Witwatersrand, for instance, workers have been working 12 hours each day from Monday to Friday, and 9 hours on Saturdays — while unemployment in South Africa has risen above 2 million!

### Shared

In any just society, all the work would be shared out among all the people, and all would share in the wealth which they produce. This means a planned economy, democratically controlled by the working people.

It would mean a good wage for all without overtime.

It would mean an end to unemployment.

It would mean more and better houses, hospitals, schools, buses and trains.

It would mean leisure time for all to live a human life.

All this is quite possible in South Africa. But the rule of the bosses, the apartheid regime and the capitalist system bar the way to a decent life for our people.

### Every means

In our struggle to overthrow the regime and the system of oppression and exploitation in South Africa, we must use every means of mobilising our fellow workers, of building our organisations in the factories and of putting forward our fighting demands.

Let us organise our fellow workers to struggle for a shorter working day! In all capitalist countries, shorter working hours have only been won through the determined struggle of the organised workers.

- No more compulsory overtime!
- Double-time pay for all over-time worked!
- For a national minimum wage of R50 for a 40-hour week!
- For an 8-hour basic working day and no more than 50 hours a week, including overtime!
- No redundancies! If the bosses reduce production, the work should be shared with no loss of pay!

## Caution

Readers in South Africa should take care not to be found with "Workers' Unity" in their possession, as it is banned.

# Strikes spread

*A number of very important strikes have taken place recently in South Africa, during which workers have shown great determination and militancy in fighting for their demands.*

*In some sectors of the economy there has been a slight upturn in production, and workers, even in the most remote areas, are taking advantage of this to push for wage increases. They are struggling to make up for the tremendous losses they have suffered through inflation and unemployment, particularly since 1975.*

*Workers have been taking strike action despite the massive unemployment in South Africa and the threat of losing their jobs through victimisation. In April, for example, unemployed Coloured workers who managed to get work at the "SASOL 2" plant were not afraid to strike on two occasions when they were dissatisfied with working and living conditions at the site.*

## Sigma workers strike for increase, reject liaison committee

On May Day this year, 1500 African and Coloured workers downed tools at Sigma Motor Corporation's assembly plant at Silverton, in support of their wage demand.

After the morning tea break, the workers staged a peaceful sit-down demonstration, and left the plant in the afternoon. They were demanding a 50c-per-hour increase, which would have brought their weekly wage to R50. (SACTU's demand is for a R50-per-week minimum wage for all workers in South Africa.)

The workers had not been granted an increase in 18 months, since the Sigma company (controlled by Anglo-American and Chrysler) had taken over the plant. About a year ago, in the face of slumping sales, the company cut production and laid off a large number of workers. Since then, however, production levels have been increased and about 400 new workers, mainly young Africans, have been taken on.

The strike was reportedly sparked off by an announcement by the company's liaison committee that there would be no wage increase this year because of "thefts" in the company.

Management has consistently refused to recognise the two unions organising in the factory, the registered National Union of Motor Assembly and Rubber Workers, and the unregistered United Auto, Rubber and Allied Workers' Union, which work closely together. Instead, the company has tried to undermine these unions by promoting the liaison committee. The strike demonstrated the workers' total rejection of this management-dominated liaison committee laying down wages for them.

On 3 May the workers returned to work, after management had been forced to agree to an increase.

The amount of the increase was not made public.

This strike at Sigma is significant for a number of reasons:

It shows the growing solidarity of African and Coloured workers in the struggle for a better life.

It shows that the workers oppose the system of liaison committees, imposed by the government and the employers. Workers want the right to negotiate through the trade unions of their choice.

The capitalist press in South

## Building workers refuse to pay rates rise

Great determination was shown in April this year by 600 African building workers in Cape Town, who went on strike in protest against a "servicing charge" increase at the barracks where they had to stay. The monthly charge (which was in addition to rent) was put up by 84%, from R3.25 to R6, by the Bantu Affairs Administration Board.

Their employer told the press: "We realise they are taking it out on the company because it's the only way they can hit back."

Five hundred of these workers chose to break off their "contracts" and face deportation to the Transkei, rather than pay the increase.

Africa, in reporting on this strike, has expressed the fear of all the bosses about the growing influence of young blacks in the work place. This strike at Sigma is the first major industrial dispute involving young black militants who were in the forefront of the Soweto uprising in 1976. The bosses fear that the fire and enthusiasm of the youth, combined with the experience and wisdom of the older workers, is producing an explosive situation in the factories.



African workers on the assembly-line at the Sigma plant.

# Unemployed women beaten by labour officials

Day after day, week after week, hundreds of unemployed black women are forced to go to the Labour Bureau in Polly Street, Johannesburg, to look for work. There they wait, hour after hour, in a cold and draughty waiting-room with a bare concrete floor and a few hard benches. Some are young, some old. Some have babies on their backs.

Behind an enclosure at one end of the yard are the bureau offices. Officials call out the jobs offered, and the women surge forward, desperate for work. Calling and shouting, waving their pass books in their hands.

The labour officials became afraid of the growing despair of the women, and devised a way of pushing them back as they advanced towards the enclosed offices. They poured cold water over them, shouted and abused them, and beat them with sjamboks and lengths of hosepipe.

This went on for months, the women too afraid to report it for fear of reprisals.

Now the Johannesburg Star (3.5.78) has revealed what is happening. The government has pro-

mised an "investigation", but no good will come of this. While the government may remove the sjamboks from its labour bureaus, its treatment of the African unemployed becomes more brutal than ever before.

In Issue No. 8 of "Workers' Unity" we reported the new law, which makes unemployment for African people a crime. Pass arrests, particularly on the Reef, have recently been greatly increased. During the first three weeks of June alone, police arrested more than 5000 black people in raids and at road-blocks. More than 4000 of these were reported to have been held for "pass offences". One of the reasons for these arrests has been to endorse out unemployed African workers to the Bantustans.

Unemployed Africans, coming to areas such as Johannesburg, are doing their best to avoid the labour bureaus and are looking for jobs by door-to-door canvassing. It was recently reported that no less than 68% of urban men and women unemployed, and 80% of rural men, use this method of finding work — despite the great risks they run under the pass laws for doing so.



During a night-time pass raid on 8th June at the Crossroads "squatter" camp near Cape Town, officials of the Bantu Administration Board examine the pass of a resident. A delegation of women from the camp went to the Board headquarters to protest against the raids and to complain about harassment by officials.

## Vaal bus drivers stand firm

Police armed with machine guns intervened in a strike by 450 black Vaal Transport Corporation bus drivers in Vereeniging on 18 May. The workers struck in protest against management imposing on them a wage increase which they did not accept.

The drivers had been granted a wage increase by the employer which fell far short of their demands. The drivers insist that because they have to double as conductors, and have to replace lost property, the increase offered was inadequate.

The strike was called when the drivers discovered that, despite their rejection of the offered increase, it had been included in their pay packets. They formed a picket to prevent buses from leaving the depot.

A yard official who tried to force the strikers to open the gates was assaulted by the angry drivers. Workers claimed that he fired a shot and then drove off in his car. Armed police arrived 5 minutes later.

The drivers agreed to resume work after management agreed to continue paying them at the old rates. The wage dispute has been referred to the Central Bantu Wage Board for "arbitration" — and this could delay matters for the employers by 6 to 9 months.

Said one of the drivers: "We should have got our increase on 1 April. We are suffering because of the delay, but we are prepared to continue suffering until we get what we want."

# Discontent sparks off revolt

On Sunday 21 May, several thousand black miners at the No. 4 shaft hostel at President Steyn gold mine revolted once again against the compound system, which imprisons them for all the time they work on the mines. They did this despite all the measures of repression and control which the government and the mine owners have worked out, and which were revealed in the last issue of "Workers' Unity".

According to reports, a black worker complained at the evening meal that the meat ration was too

small. This spark of discontent spread like wild fire, and during the course of the night workers destroyed a liquor outlet, three dining halls, three change rooms, and set fire to another four dining halls and four change rooms.

Riot police with tear gas and dogs were brought onto the scene, and 23 workers were arrested. While production was resumed on the Monday evening shift, about 500 miners, mainly from the Transkei and Lesotho, decided to cancel their "contracts" and leave.

Absolute control over their diet is just another form of regimentation to which African mine-workers are subjected. They receive only a part of their pay in cash — the other part is given in the form of food and hostel "accommodation".

## Militant weavers stop production in May Day dispute

One hundred and sixty women employees of Transkei Hillmond Weavers (owned by the Transkei Development Corporation) downed tools over a pay dispute on May Day.

The women were dissatisfied over wage increases granted by management. Some were given increases of 60%, others of only 2½%. Refusing to accept the explanation given by the liaison committee at the factory, the workers brought production to a standstill and refused to work.

The boss gave them 15 minutes to return to work, and when they refused all 160 were sacked. On 5 May, 152 of them were re-employed (presumably on the old conditions). The matter has now been referred to the Transkei "government", which has banned all trade unions in the Bantustan.



After complaints about the meat ration, thousands of workers clashed with armed police at President Steyn gold mine.

# Workers in the metal industry

Today the iron, steel, metal and engineering industry in South Africa employs nearly half million workers. In 1972, these workers contributed about 40% of total manufacturing production.

There are about 7000 firms in the industry as a whole, most of which are in the engineering sector.

Iron and steel production is controlled by a small number of big employers. In 1972, 15 out of the total of 140 plants were responsible for 90% of the total iron and steel production. These 15 plants are either controlled by the government's ISCOR, or are privately owned by the big capitalist companies.

For example, Dunsward Steel is owned by General Mining; Highveld Steel by the Anglo American Corporation; and Southern Cross by Barlow Rand.

Today, Iscor plants employ 60,000 workers and produce 3/4 of the country's steel.

The engineering sector, on the other hand, has consisted of a large number of smaller firms, which have tended to specialise in producing different products. However, concentration of engineering production in the hands of a few big capitalists is starting to occur.

A number of multi-national companies, like Philips and GEC (electronics), have moved plants to South Africa, to take advantage of the apartheid system and make big profits out of cheap black labour. These overseas companies are becoming closely linked with the big South African companies. In April this year, for example, Barlows announced that they would take over half of GEC in South Africa.

Developments like these in the engineering industry show the way in which the wealth of our country, produced by the workers, is being concentrated in the hands of a few very rich capitalists.



A furnace tapping team with their foreman at Highveld Steel and Vanadium Corporation.

The work in the iron and steel industry is physically very hard and involves long shifts, often in very hot temperatures.

These harsh working conditions are reflected in a high degree of absenteeism, even among white workers. In the case of black workers, bad housing and transport facilities also keep them away from work.

There is a very high "turnover" of workers in the industry. This is mainly due to the migrant labour system, by which Africans are employed on a 1 to 2 year basis only. But it is also the result of the harsh conditions at work.

In 1970, Dunsward reported a 160% turnover among lower-paid workers. The operators' annual turnover was 80% and there was even a 65% turnover of technical staff.

## Spirited resistance

Black workers in the metal industry have been in the forefront of the struggle against the apartheid labour system.

From the very beginning of Iscor (established in 1928) there were strikes of African workers, and during and after the Second World War there were massive strikes in Johannesburg, Vanderbijlpark and Newcastle. The workers were advancing the slogan of an end to slave conditions in the same way as black mine-workers—a demand for the abolition of the compounds, for a living wage, and for an end to assaults by white workers.

There were more metal workers on strike in 1973 than any other industry. At the Alusaf aluminium

plant at Richards Bay the army was sent in to break the strike.

Following these mass strikes, there were struggles by metal workers who were housed in compounds on the Rand in 1975. They demanded a say in wage negotiations. In Newcastle the workers employed by the modern Iscor plant boycotted the bus service and demanded higher wages to compensate for higher transport fees.

There have been strikes of workers employed at ship-building works in Cape Town and Durban.

These workers have shown that even the brutal exploitation of contract labour and the compounds has not crushed their spirit.

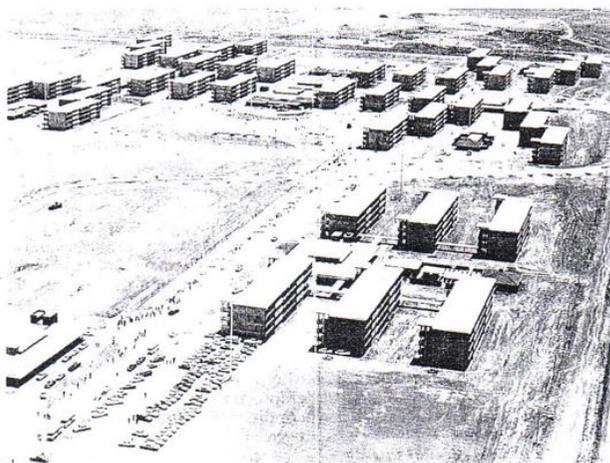
The employers represented by

SEIFSA are trying every way to beat the workers' resistance and all employers in the industry have been sent circulars advising them to form liaison committees to stop the development of trade unions and even of elected works committees.

There has been a long history of struggle for union recognition in

this industry. Recently, since the formation of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union in 1973, the employers in the metal industry (from Alcan Aluminium in Pietermaritzburg to Heinemann in Johannesburg) have again been confronted by workers' demands for the recognition of independent unions.

## Iscor hostel planned to control workers



Iscor's "KwaMasiza" hostel complex at Sebokeng.

If one could believe South African government propaganda, migrant workers at Iscor's Vanderbijlpark Works are now enjoying a wonderful improvement in their living conditions. A new hostel complex has been opened at Sebokeng, six kilometres from the plant, which will eventually house 20,000 African workers.

At first glance, this new "Kwa-Masiza" complex is vastly better than existing compound housing—instead of over-crowded barracks the new hostels are divided into "flats", each with "three bedrooms", a lounge, a north-facing balcony and a bathroom with a separate shower and toilet." A "family unit" of ten male workers occupies each "flat".

But as soon as we look more closely at this modern compound of Iscor's, we can see that what the workers are gaining in terms of

better facilities, they are losing ten times over in terms of freedom.

The purpose of the "improvements" is to ensure the most rigid control over every individual worker at every moment, and to prevent the workers from organising themselves to resist the bosses and the apartheid regime.

According to the *Rand Daily Mail* (6.1.78), "Mr Grobler, who began planning the complex eight years ago, says the intention was to create a hierarchy of dedicated steelmen. This hierarchical structure is built into each flat, where there is a prefect with a bedroom to himself, three assistants sharing a slightly larger bedroom and another six men in the third bedroom."

"The pecking order extends to the positioning of a more senior man's bed so he can control the

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# Charter of Rights for migrant workers

An international conference on migratory labour in Southern Africa was held in Lusaka from 4-8 April, 1978. The conference was organised by the Economic Commission for Africa and the ILO.

The delegates unanimously adopted a *Charter of Rights for Migrant Workers*. They promised "to strive for the abolition of the migratory labour system practised in South Africa and, pending its elimination, agree to the present Charter of Rights for Migrant Workers in Southern Africa."

Among the African governments whose representatives agreed to the Charter were Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, Swaziland and Zambia. Among the organisations which approved the Charter were the ANC of South Africa, SWAPO of Namibia and the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, as well as the Zimbabwe African Congress of Trade Unions and SACTU.

These are the rights set out in the Charter:

## Chapter I

### RIGHTS OF ASSOCIATION, MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE

#### Article 1

All workers shall have the right to:

- Form and join trade unions of their own choice;
- Participate in collective bargaining on equal terms with all other workers regardless of race, sex, political affiliation or religion;
- Withhold their labour by strike action in support of their demands.

#### Article 2

All workers shall have the right to freedom of movement and shall not be required to carry a pass or similar document.

#### Article 3

All workers shall have the right to be accommodated near their place of work with their families in suitable houses under home ownership schemes or to reside elsewhere if they choose so to do.

#### Article 4

All workers shall have the right of occupation free from colour bar, job reservation and all other forms of discrimination.

#### Article 5

Every worker regardless of race or sex, shall have the right to work, choose his occupation, and change from one employer to another without loss of accrued benefits and claims to promotion.

#### Article 6

All workers, without exception, shall have the right to equal pay for equal work.

#### Article 7

All workers shall have equal rights to vocational training and adult education for the purpose of acquiring skills and increasing their awareness.

## Chapter II

### RIGHT TO A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING

#### Article 8

Every worker is entitled to a minimum basic wage sufficient for the maintenance of the health and well being of his family.

#### Article 9

All workers shall have the right to adequate protection against occupational accidents and diseases by means of approved safeguards and close supervision by an independent industrial and farming inspectorate operating in conjunction with workers' representatives.

#### Article 10

All workers and their families shall have an equal and absolute right to adequate, immediate and effective compensation for death or disability arising out of occupational diseases and accidents.

#### Article 11

All workers shall have a right to:

- Free medical services for themselves and their families;
- Sick leave and, where applicable, maternity leave with full pay;
- Annual paid holidays.

#### Article 12

All workers shall be entitled to retire on full pension or with a gratuity proportionate to their period of service.

#### Article 13

All workers shall have a right to determine, their terms and conditions of employment through collective bargaining.

#### Article 14

All workers shall have a right to unemployment benefits.

#### Article 15

All women workers shall have the right to participate in all sectors of the economy without discrimination in respect of wages, training, job allocation or pension benefits.

As a step towards implementing the decisions of the conference, it was agreed to form a Southern Africa labour committee composed of "representatives of the supplier States and of workers' organisations in Southern Africa."

The *Charter of Rights for Migrant Workers* can help to advance the workers' struggle and defend their interests against the employers and the apartheid regime — if the Charter is backed up by the

organised power of the workers themselves.

Migrant workers should spread word about the Charter to their brothers and sisters on the farms, in the factories and in the mines, so that the demands are taken up by all workers together. Workers will have to see to it that the governments which have accepted the Charter implement it themselves and insist that it is implemented in South Africa.

## SACTU states policy on migrant workers

In a paper to the conference on migratory labour, SACTU pointed out that migrant workers form a super-exploited section of the working class, forced to take the most menial and lowest-paid jobs. They are denied citizenship rights where they work; are always the first to be fired; and suffer the full force of the economic crisis.

SACTU's paper stated: "Ever since its formation, SACTU has opposed the system of migrant labour on which the apartheid economy is based. But in fighting for the rights of South African workers, SACTU fights at the same time for the rights of *all* workers. In the same way as SACTU rejects the concept of "foreign workers" when applied to black South Africans, so too does it reject that concept when applied to other workers, regardless of their country of origin.

"SACTU stands firmly by the Freedom Charter which says that

South Africa belongs to all who live in it, and that the wealth of South Africa shall be restored to the people. To live is to work — every worker knows this. Accordingly, we say that those who have contributed to the wealth of South Africa, regardless of their country of origin, will be free to live and work in South Africa if they so choose. They and their families will enjoy the same citizenship rights enjoyed by their South African brothers and sisters, sharing in the wealth they have collectively created.

"SACTU fights for the rights of *all* workers, including those who at the end of their contracts are made to return of their country of origin, leaving behind the wealth they have produced. They too have put their lives into building South Africa's industrial might, and they have a just claim to the fruits of their labour."

# "Working class — revolutionary class"



This is the most powerful and revolutionary class. When united they are everything, divided they are nothing.

The working class is being pushed around from pillar to post by the oppressor. They are being treated like animals or commodities at their places of employment, and at homes, hostels, compounds.

At work they are exposed to all types of humiliations, in the mines, factories and industries. In the train or buses to and fro. They are being exploited by their bosses who are a handful of associations, dictating to the mass majority of the working class.

The working class has no country, no families. They must first of all organise themselves and stay organised against the enemy. In the form of trade unions.

The working class is being imported and exported. They are being transferred from factory to factory, from mine to mine, whether they like it or not. This is done in all the industries.

They are being paid very little wages. As a result they can't afford to maintain their families, buy food for themselves or a shelter to stay safe from cold and rain. They can't buy tea in the morning before leaving for work. They are forced to pay a high rent, bus-fare and train-fare. Should they fail to pay rent they face eviction and thus they are again being let into the street.

The workers are daily being ill-treated at the pass office. They spend most of their time at the superintendent's offices and pass office, and they are being hunted by the police during the day.

These pick-ups (police vans) run the whole day and night, looking for these people (working class) as

if they want to help them with something. These Hippos run around the whole town looking for these working class, from street to street, from corner to corner.

Why are these police taking such trouble to arrest these workers? It is because they are one with your employer. They are being sent by them to arrest you after work. This is another way of exploiting you. They form an association against you.

You are being kept in the hostels should they need your services and in jail if they don't need your services. Why today are so many jails with so many people?

In the Bantustans the same system is applied. You are being kept in these slave-camps, or labour-camps. You are going to die a natural death there, from starvation and hunger. So that by the time they need you to come and work for them you are like an animal. You are ready to do any type of work for a slice of bread.

You (worker), you must unite yourself with your co-workers in a united and revolutionary force against your oppressor. You must demand for a better pay and better treatment. Speak to your fellow workers at the work, in trains or buses.

You know why these exploiters don't want to see you in any form of organisation (trade union) — because he knows once you are united he becomes nothing. You as a worker must organise yourself against all the institutes of oppression.

So long as you are not united or organised you will never subdue your oppressors.

Workers of the world unite! Forward to the working class!

## Iscor hostel planned to control workers...

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room's light switch. And it's all worked out by computer, programmed by a sophisticated personnel information system that is obviously Mr Grobler's pride and joy..."

"Each man's progress, abilities and personal details right down to the size of his boots, are stored in the computer's memory for instant recall. He is given a new merit rating after every 75 shifts and the computer knows precisely where he is and what he is doing... each working day."

"To make the system's control complete, each flat is linked by intercom to the house father's cottage and to the central administration block." The reporter adds: "One feels it was planned by a team of clinical and industrial psychologists, sociologists, economists and social anthropologists who tried hard to consider all the angles... KwaMasiza could turn

out to be a model for the country."

This is modern science in the service of barbarism. It is the old oppression and exploitation of African workers — only "improved". The "improvement" is a built-in system of divide-and-rule; of organised spying; of reducing the worker to a passive individual, dependent for survival on pleasing his superiors.

To defeat this system, the African workers at Iscor will have to be very resourceful and very well organised. Workers should not be intimidated by all the cunning devices of the bosses.

Computers, for example, often intimidate people because they seem to be so clever. Actually, computers are idiots — they cannot think for themselves; they can only do what they are told. Any human being can outwit a computer.

In the Vietnam war, the American imperialists used computers to try and defeat the liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people. They had machines which could detect the presence of human beings in the jungle, by sensing sweat or urine. A computer would then assess the

## SACTU delegations invited

During the past 3 months, SACTU has received invitations from national trade union organisations in a number of countries. Among the countries visited by SACTU representatives as a result have been: Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Iraq, Japan, the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

In addition, SACTU was officially invited to participate at the annual conference of the Irish TUC, and at that of the Scottish TUC.

In May, a speaking tour of France was jointly arranged for SACTU by the two main trade union organisations in that country, the CGT and the CFDT, and by the teachers' union, the FEN.

A SACTU representative returned in June from an extended visit to the United States of America at the invitation of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and other trade union bodies.

number of people there and automatically send in bombers to attack the place.

The guerillas used to deliberately dump large quantities of urine in certain places to deceive the Americans, and so cause useless bombing attacks to be made in the wrong place.

The workers at Iscor can think up their own tricks for beating the bosses' computer!

The Iscor bosses want all the workers to live together in one place at "KwaMasiza" so as to control them. But this concentration in one place can be a great advantage to the workers in organising themselves. It can give workers even greater power to take effective action. This has been the experience of mineworkers, for example, in many countries.