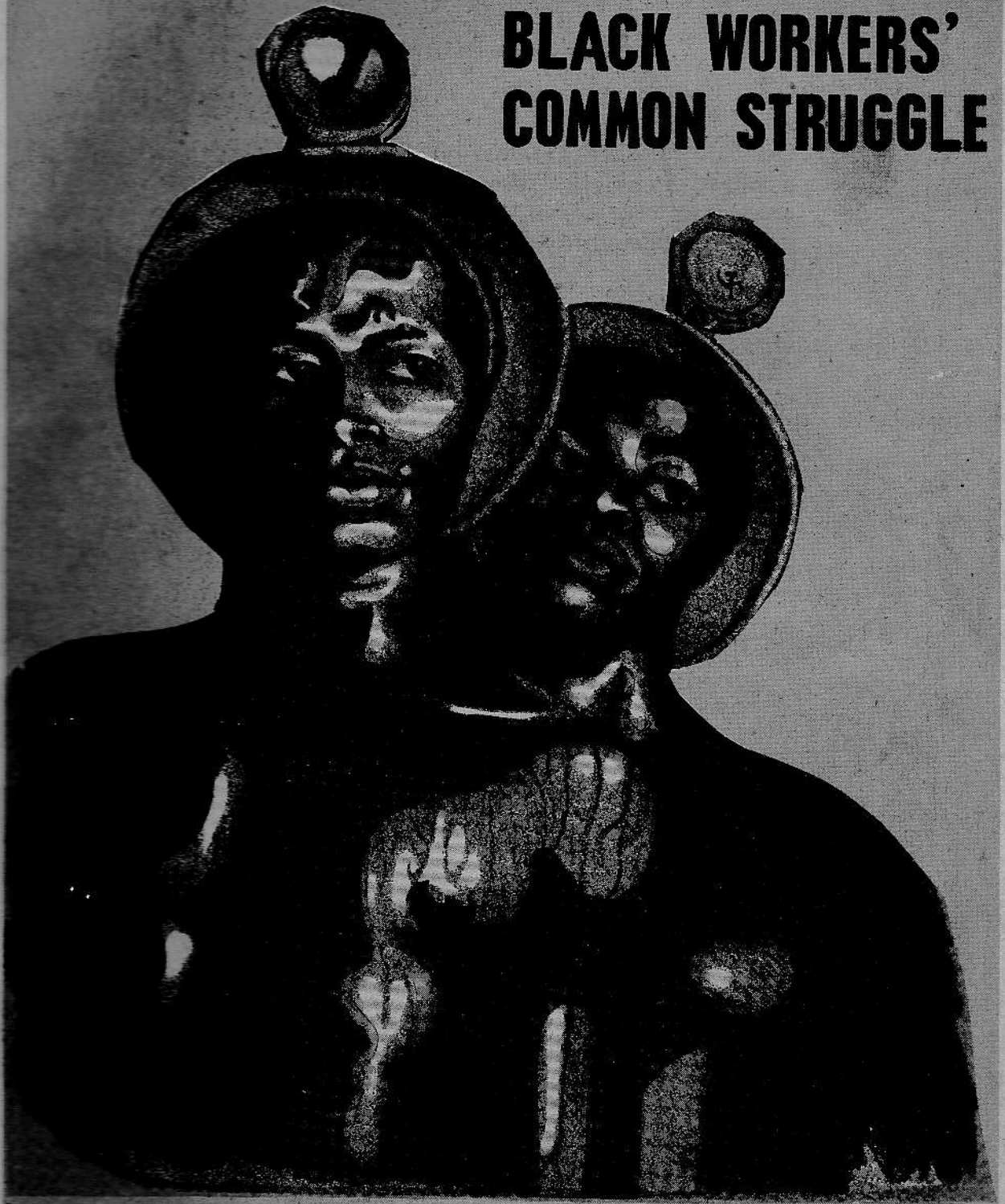


Detroit to Durban

**BLACK WORKERS'
COMMON STRUGGLE**



**By the Black Workers
Organizing Committee**

25¢



The BLACK WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE is a collective of Black Workers in the Bay Area concerned about organizing support for the national liberation movements in southern Africa.

Write us at: P.O. Box 24590
Oakland, Calif. 94623

Published by: UNITED FRONT PRESS

May, 1973

Conditions in South Africa

Most people in the U.S. have heard something about South Africa. It is usually referred to as "Racist South Africa"—a rich country ruled by a white minority under the oppressive system of *apartheid* (literally "separation of the races").

In South Africa, less than 4 million whites own 87 percent of the land, while more than 17 million Africans, coloreds,* and Asians are forced to live in restricted areas making up just 13 percent of the country's land.

White minority rule in South Africa means that the African majority are treated as foreigners in their own land—the African majority can't even vote. Daily life for South African Blacks is not much better than the conditions faced by slaves on Southern plantations over 100 years ago.

What is life like for the 17 million Blacks and people of color in South Africa? It is a nightmare of repressive laws, near-starvation level wages, brutal working conditions, high unemployment, miserable medical care, and high

*Official South African government term for people of mixed race.

infant mortality rates. A detailed system of laws controls practically everything Africans do from sunup to sundown—where they can live, who they can visit, what jobs they can work at, who they can marry.

African people live under the constant threat of imprisonment or death for such minor offenses as these:

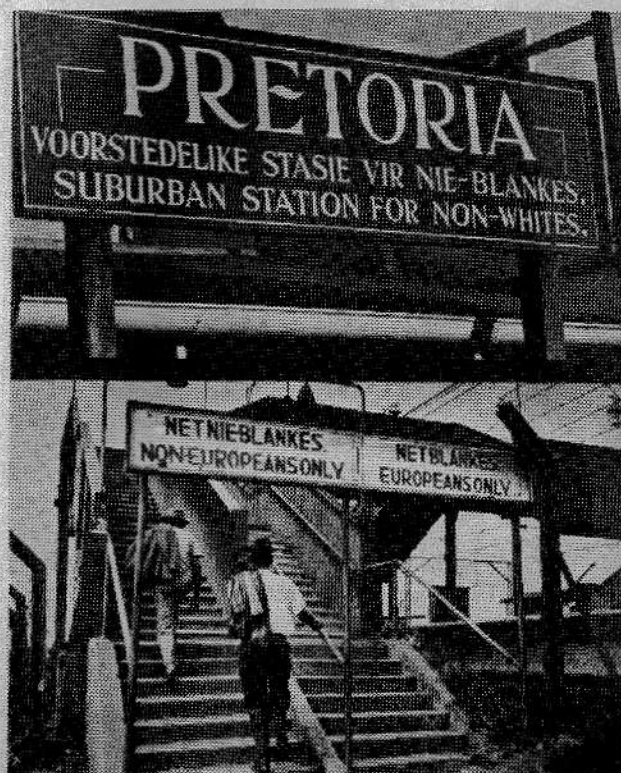
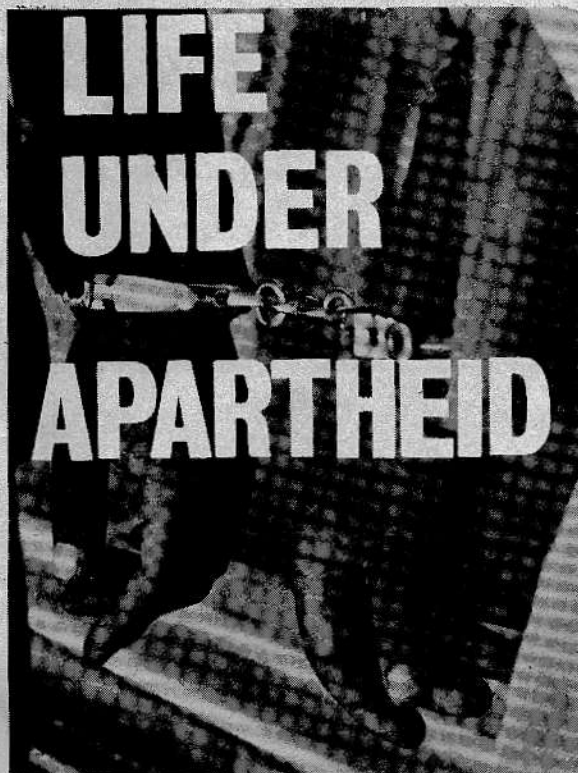
If a Black sits on a park bench reserved for whites, he can be fined up to \$840, jailed for three years, whipped (ten lashes), or all three.

African workers are prohibited from striking—maximum penalty is \$1,400 and three years in prison.

Anyone who openly criticizes the government can be banished to a distant area or permanently confined to his home.

Anyone who writes a message on the wall of a building advocating increased political rights for Blacks is guilty of "sabotage." Minimum sentence is five years.

Africans may not possess firearms. Minimum penalty—five years. Maximum penalty—death.





BANTUSTANS

In addition to daily harassment and humiliation, Africans are forced into overcrowded, barren reservations called **Bantustans**—very similar to Native American reservations in the U.S. The main purpose of the Bantustans is to keep Africans out of the cities and confine them to rural areas where they can be controlled more easily. (see box)

A special law (the Group Areas Act) allows the South African government to condemn any Black or colored area (called “Black spots”), destroy the housing, and reclaim the land for the use of whites. Just as in the U.S. with “urban renewal,” the housing that Blacks are supposed to be relocated into usually does not exist.

PASS LAWS

The key to the entire racist legal system of South Africa is the infamous **Pass Laws**. Under the Pass Laws, every African has to carry at all times a little book which tells his name, place of birth, his tribe, his complete job history, and his grade of employment. Without this booklet an

African can be picked up on the spot.

He cannot get a job, find housing, get married, or even pick up a package at the post office without a pass book. To catch a train or move into the cities requires a special stamp which may be revoked by the government at any time. If an African’s pass book doesn’t have his employer’s signature in it, he is classified as an “idle Bantu”—and can be imprisoned for up to two years.

The purpose of the Pass Laws is to make sure that African people know they do not belong anywhere (especially in the cities) if they are not actively serving the needs of the white community. Under these laws, over 3,000 Africans are arrested daily!

The government utilizes the granting of travel permits to move African workers around the country, wherever their labor is needed—in industrial sweatshops, the mines, or as maids and domestic servants.

WORKERS’ CONDITIONS— INDUSTRIAL SLAVERY

Black African workers produce most of the wealth of South Africa. They make up 90 percent of the workforce in the mining, construction, textile, and transport industries. But they are a super-exploited people in their own country.

African people work from 10-12 hours a day, 6 days a week. Their average take-home pay is \$30.00 per month. (see chart) The official poverty line is \$70.00 a month. What this means is that most Black workers live in a constant state of partial starvation.

Conditions of virtual slavery exist in South Africa’s gold and diamond mines. Here 500,000 Africans work under one-year contracts that prohibit them from leaving the area—unless they are seriously injured or develop phthisis, South Africa’s incurable “Black Lung” disease.

BANTUSTANS—MODERN-DAY CONCENTRATION CAMPS

In 1936, the South African Parliament defined special areas called tribal reserves, within which the non-urban African population would be confined. Today, 87 percent of the land is held by whites, while the remaining 13 percent has to support the African and colored populations. 7 million Africans live on the 8 major reservations (all separated from each other by strips of land held by whites), while 7.7 million Blacks live in totally segregated “townships” outside the cities.

Blacks are not allowed to move between the cities and the reserves unless they have the permission of the government. Wives and children of Africans working in the “white” areas cannot live with them unless they’ve lived in the area before. Visits between couples living in different areas are limited to 72 hours. This has caused the breakup and disruption of millions of African families—similar to what slavery did to many Black families in the U.S.



Police check passes for employer's signature and legality of being in "white" area.



Barracks-like housing for African miners. 20 men sleep on concrete slabs in this room.

Under this system of industrial slavery, Blacks are prohibited from joining unions. For an African worker to go on strike is a crime punishable by 3 years in jail and a \$1500 fine. The wages, hours, and working conditions of Black workers are controlled by the employers and the Department of "Bantu Affairs."

Black workers are prohibited from holding most skilled jobs, especially any job in which they might be supervising whites. In addition, once an African worker starts working in a mine or factory, he cannot leave without permission. The factories and mines of South Africa are nothing but industrial plantations.

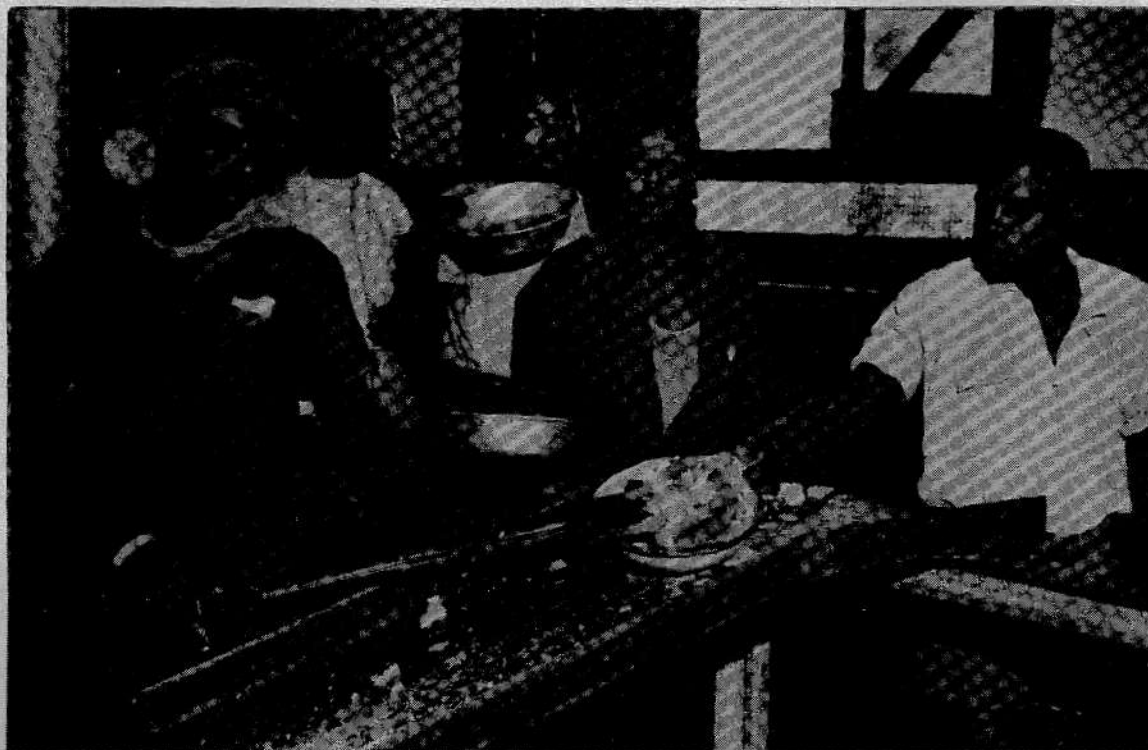
JIM CROW LAWS

The South African racists have passed an elaborate set of "Color Laws" in their white-only parliament. These laws are much more stringent than the Jim Crow system in many southern states. Black people are prohibited from using phone booths, toilets, parks, blood plasma, and everything else (including many jobs) that are designated "white only." There are even separate train stations.

These racist laws stretch into every aspect of the lives of Black and colored people in South Africa, including education. Schooling for whites is compulsory and free until the age of 16, and large numbers of whites go on to college at the government's expense.



Teacher struggling with one of her two daily sessions of 100 students each.



Food dumped on miners' plates with shovel. Most African workers suffer from malnutrition.

At the other end, Africans must pay even to go to overcrowded, undersupplied public schools. The government spends 9 times more for the education of a white child than it does for an African child. Why? A Minister of Education put it bluntly:

Education will be suitable for those who will become the industrial workers of the country ... What is the use of teaching a Bantu child mathematics when it cannot be used in practice?

The medical care provided by the South African regime to their future industrial workers is atrocious and criminal. What do they care that out of every thousand African babies born in the cities, 150 die immediately—as long as they have enough workers? And in the Bantustan concentration camps, the horror is even worse—as many as 400 out of every 1000 infants die.

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE STATE

The horrible conditions of life for African people and the daily humiliation at the hands of any white official, worker, or bum in the street means that South Africa requires a huge police force.

The largest number of arrests have come as a result of pass law offenses. In his book, *House of Bondage*, Ernest Cole writes: "You can expect to be challenged for your pass practically every day. During a 'blitz' as many as twenty-five

hundred police sweep the streets checking passes, and you may be stopped a hundred times."

Sounds a lot like STRESS in Detroit or Chicago's South Side, doesn't it?

As a result of pass law "offenses" and the continuing protests and resistance to these racist laws, the prison population of South Africa now totals 70,000 men and women. Four-fifths of them are Black and colored.

Many are political prisoners—arrested during numerous Gestapo-type roundups of active African opponents of the racist regime. Per capita, there are almost 4 times as many prisoners in South Africa as in the U.S. Whippings of African and colored prisoners go on daily, and over 100 African prisoners are put to death by hanging every year.

The government can jail any person active in opposing apartheid with the help of the Suppression of Communism Act of 1950. It labels any active opposition to South African racism as "communist subversion." With dozens of repressive laws like this at its disposal, the South African government has more and more resorted to police state measures to crush the rising African protest movement.

But South African racism sits on shaky ground. Brutal repression has only strengthened the resistance and fighting spirit of the African people.

	White (Europeans)	Black (Africans)
Per capita income (1968)	\$3,144.00	\$117.00
Average wage in mining (1968)	4,740.00	\$285.00
Education expenditure per pupil	\$159	\$18
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	27	200
Percentage of population	19	70
Percentage of land reserved	87	13

Sharpeville Massacre— U.S. Companies Rescue Apartheid

On March 21, 1960 over 250,000 Africans gathered in front of police stations throughout South Africa. Unarmed, they came to protest the Pass Laws. About 5,000 Africans massed in the early morning at the police station of a little town known as Sharpeville.

The mood was very much like that of the civil rights protests and sit-ins in the United States in the early '60s. Spirits were high. The African people felt their unity would bring an end to their oppression.

Without warning, the police opened fire. Forty seconds later, 69 Africans lay dead and 200 wounded. Eight women and ten children were among the dead.

In response to the massacre at Sharpeville, protests swept like wildfire over South Africa. A general strike was called. African workers all over the country walked off their jobs. Students marched in protest and crowds gathered in countless cities and towns to demonstrate their outrage over the killing.

The Nationalist Party, the clique that came to power through white-only "elections" in 1948

reacted with even more violence and repression. The racists declared a State of Emergency. Africans throughout the country were brutally beaten, shot, and thrown into jail without trial.

In Nyanga, near Cape Town, the police were turned loose for four days with orders to whip every male African they encountered.

"For sheer sadism," wrote Canadian correspondent Norman Phillips, "the closest comparison to what happened at Nyanga was when the Gestapo sealed off the Warsaw ghetto and began to annihilate it."

People all over the world were shocked at the brutality and barbarity of the racist South African rulers. There were mass protest demonstrations in many countries. Parliaments and legislatures passed official condemnations.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Fearing further mass protest and the loss of investments, foreign banks and corporations began to withdraw capital. Many people believed that this economic crisis would lead to the collapse of South African white minority rule.



Left: Johannesburg bus boycott. Right: Police attacking African protest rally.



Look like Detroit? Black workers leave plant in South Africa.

But the South African regime did not collapse. In fact, since the Sharpeville massacre the South African ruling clique has grown stronger. In the last 13 years it has tightened its repressive stranglehold on the African people.

U.S. COMPANIES TO THE RESCUE

Into the middle of the crisis in South Africa rushed American industry and its banking partners. With Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank leading the way, the First National Bank, the World Bank and other U.S. financiers supplied over \$85 million in emergency loans to the South African regime.

Within days, Ford announced plans for a \$11 million plant and General Motors committed a \$29 million investment. GM bought full-page ads in South African newspapers expressing confidence in the stability of the South African regime.

In 1967 Chrysler made the largest single investment in the history of the South African auto industry—a \$35 million engine plant. All together, the Big 3 have poured over \$300 million into South Africa—two-thirds of it since Sharpeville.

There are now over 400 U.S. corporations in South Africa. Besides the Big 3, almost every major U.S. company has investments there—from Standard Oil to International Harvester.

The more than \$1 billion U.S. investment is the industrial backbone of white rule in South Africa.

THE BIG THREE AT A GLANCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

General Motors

Total Investment: \$125 million
Employment: 4,000 Blacks
Plants: Three major assembly plants in Port Elizabeth

Ford

Total Investment: \$70 million
Employment: 3,500 Blacks
Plants: An assembly and engine plant located in Port Elizabeth.

Chrysler

Total Investment: \$70 million
Employment: 3,000 Blacks
Plants: \$35 million Chrysler Park, near Pretoria, is the largest outlay in the history of the South African auto industry.

Since Sharpeville, the South African economy has moved from agriculture and mining towards a self-sufficient industrial economy. The auto industry has become the hub around which the rest of the South African economy turns. With booming auto production, the oil, steel, rubber, glass, and chrome industries have developed rapidly.

Modern plant facilities, technology, and speeded up production methods give the South African racists the ability to withstand international economic sanctions. In addition, the auto plants of GM, Ford, and Chrysler can be converted to the production of military weaponry whenever the government decides.

Auto-related industries are producing the military equipment the South African government needs to maintain its brutal rule at home and to support weaker white minority regimes in nearby Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Angola, and Mozambique.

In the words of a former South African Minister of "Defense": "Do not think we are arming to fight a foreign army. We are not. We are arming to shoot down the Black masses."

As African Liberation movements press in from the north and African people increase their pressure from within, the South African racists will be hard pressed to protect U.S. investments. Neither the South African regime nor U.S. business want to see another crisis like the one after Sharpeville.

We've been in South Africa a long time... We like it here!

Union Carbide has been in South Africa since the 1930's. Some companies grow and prosper, providing new jobs and generating new capital. We like to think that Union Carbide, The Discovery Company, is growing steadily — through the development of new products — through expansion into new fields. All of this is good for us and good for our country. We do our bit to create foreign exchange in South Africa by exporting chrome ore and vanadium products. And we also market many of Union Carbide's discoveries — like SEVIN Insecticide, a wide variety of chemicals, silicones and plastics. Some of these products hadn't even been invented just a few years ago.

As we discover, whole new industries may be born, to help us grow as the country grows.



RECORD-HIGH PROFITS FOR GM AND FORD

Ford's profits in 1972 were \$870,000,000. GM netted \$2,163,000,000 profit for the year. The first quarter of 1973 was the "most profitable in history" for both companies, and Ford reported a 43% increase in profits.

Why the big increase in profits? Ford admitted it was mainly due to "sharply higher profits in operations outside the US and Canada"—made possible by lower wages. (A Ford worker in South Africa makes 53 cents an hour.) That is why the auto companies are investing hundreds of millions of dollars setting up new plants in Brazil and the Philippines—on every continent.

Meanwhile, back in the USA, auto workers are being worked to the bone. Two men are doing the work of three. At GM's Lordstown plant the assembly line was recently sped up from 60 to 101 cars an hour. On top of that GM laid off 900 workers at the plant. At Norwood, Ohio, GM laid off 1200 out of a work force of 5200—and the line speed stayed the same! In other words, the companies are getting more profit out of every worker they keep—and throwing the rest on the unemployment lines!

It's not hard to figure out where the record-high profits come from: off the backs of workers whether it's Port Elisabeth, South Africa, or Detroit.



U.S. Investments—Who Benefits?

The tentacles of U.S. corporations, led by the big three auto producers, do not stop in South Africa. They stretch worldwide.

For example, Zenith, RCA, Philco Ford and other electronics companies manufacture 95 percent of all radios sold in the U.S. market in Taiwan and other low wage countries. Gulf Oil has over \$250 million invested in Portugal's African colony, Angola.

44 percent of Ford workers are employed outside the U.S. In 1969 20 percent of GM vehicles and 30 percent of Chrysler cars and trucks were made abroad.

Who benefits from this network of overseas production and sales?

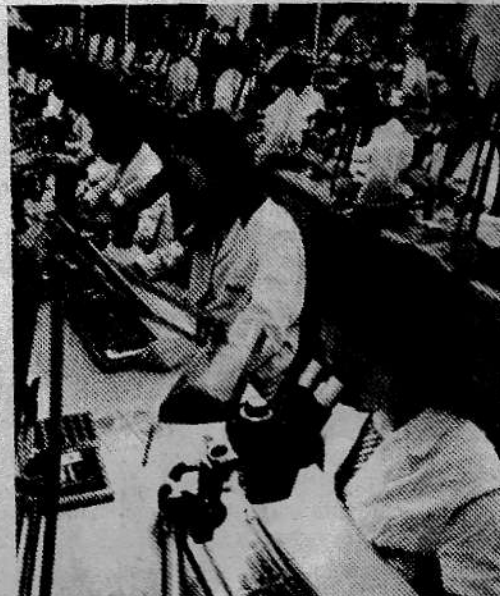
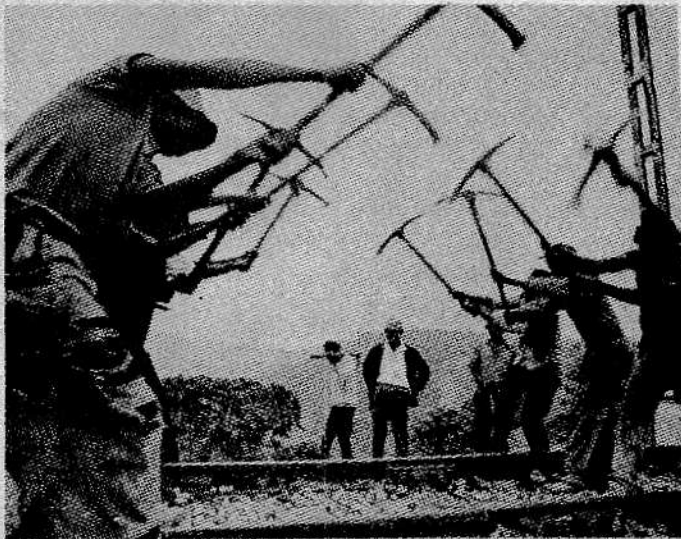
- Not workers on Taiwan who labor for 14 cents an hour, and where, just like South Africa, strikes are illegal.
- Certainly not African workers forced to produce profits for the corporations that prop up their white racist rulers in South Africa, Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.
- Not Black workers in the United States. Our sweat and blood helped build the auto companies into what they are. In return, we get the dirtiest, lowest paying jobs.

Our jobs are exported overseas. Our taxes are spent and our blood is spilt to suppress Black and Asian people in other parts of the world so that U.S. business can have the freedom to invest and exploit new sources of cheap labor. And because unemployment is permanently high in our communities (Oakland 33 percent, Los Angeles, 29 percent, Detroit 25 percent), thousands of Black people are forced to join the military for jobs.

- The only people who really benefit are the owners of the banks and corporations and their henchmen in the U.S. dominated countries of the world.

Many of the biggest U.S. companies, Standard Oil, IBM, Dow Chemical, just to name a few, make over 50 percent of their profits from overseas investment. Their current yearly profits are almost 10 billion dollars from other countries. They make the biggest return on dollars invested in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. With a profit rate of 20 percent, South Africa is one of the most profitable places for investment.

While racism does not explain the need of U.S. corporations to expand, from the very beginning it has been used to justify and reinforce the exploitation of non-white people throughout the world.



Left: African railway workers. Right: RCA plant on Taiwan—opened after RCA laid off 6,000 (mostly Black women) at its Cincinnati and Memphis plants.



Back-breaking labor in Texas cotton fields. Since the days of slavery, we have worked at the hardest, lowest-paying jobs.

Today, U.S. corporations have moved money and factories to South Africa to take advantage of the slave labor of African workers. In the early 1800s, during the birth of capitalism in the U.S., Black people were enslaved and shipped from Africa to America. In both cases the reason is the same: **cheap labor.**

The labor of African slaves built the agriculture of the South. And this provided the foundation for the industrial development of the North.

During and after the two world wars, Black people, along with Mexican and Puerto Rican workers, were brought north in large numbers to work in industry. And when business was bad, we were (and still are) the first thrown onto the unemployment lines.

Our history in the U.S. has one consistent thread in it: we have always worked—producing super profits for the owners of the plantations, corporations and banks. Our labor is owned by the bosses and our “property” by the banks, credit companies, and loan sharks.

On the job, the employers’ drive for higher profits means low wages, speedup, unemployment, death and disability. For Black, Asian and Latin workers in the U.S. this oppression has an additional side to it—racism throughout every aspect of society. Unions that don’t fight for us,

employers that won’t hire us, inadequate housing, and occupation police forces patrolling our communities and harassing and murdering our people.

BOSSSES CREATE THEIR OWN PROBLEM

On the one hand, American workers are the most productive in the world. But people on the unemployment lines, workers whose take-home pay is shriveled by inflation, can’t buy back much of what they produce.

But when they push us to produce more and squeeze us so we are able to buy less, their profits go down.

Business is left with stores and warehouses filled with things nobody can afford to buy. More plants are closed and more workers laid off. The Great Depression of the 1930s is remembered at the worst of these periodic crises.

They are forced to look for new markets for their products. If they can’t make enough return on their investments in the U.S., they expand to other countries where they can get even cheaper labor. This is precisely why the U.S. banks and corporations are in South Africa and other countries: to increase their profits. Firestone,



Unemployed workers in Newark, N.J. Unemployment has stayed at permanent depression levels in Black communities.

GM or Zenith don't lower the price of their tires, cars or radios because they are made by African or Taiwanese workers paid 14 cents or 53 cents per hour.

This incessant drive for more and more profit is like a tapeworm. You can't feed it enough. It only gets bigger and wants more.

The tapeworm inside capitalism originally enslaved our ancestors in west Africa. Two centuries later this tapeworm, bigger than ever, has developed into the modern system of imperialism. It has driven U.S. business back to Africa and all over the world for cheaper labor, raw materials, and new markets.

Today, U.S. business doesn't have old-style colonies—like Britain and France had and Portugal still has in Africa. Since people in Africa and other countries around the world are forcing the end of direct colonial rule, U.S. banks and

corporations have turned to indirect methods to protect their investments overseas; they work through local front-men, like Vorster in South Africa, Smith in Rhodesia, and Thieu in South Vietnam.

The U.S. military is never far off—either arming these regimes to the teeth or intervening directly. A “good investment climate” is created and billions of dollars of profits roll in from the exploitation of South African, Mexican, and Taiwanese workers.

Without this overseas expansion, U.S. banks and corporations could not survive. History shows they will go to any lengths to defend their economic empire: from the genocidal war in Vietnam to the direct support of white racist governments in Africa.

But history, as well as time, is on the side of the African people.

Jim Hatos, managing director of the International Harvester subsidiary in South Africa states, “I am sympathetic to what the South African government is trying to do. I don't want hundreds of Africans running around in front of my house.”
(*Fortune*, July 1972)

Detroit to Durban

Despite U.S. money and support, the South African government is today faced with a serious crisis. Their problem in a nutshell is: **How can they continue to exploit the cheap labor of African workers without having them pour into the heart of the urban centers like Durban, Johannesburg and Capetown, where they pose a direct threat to white supremacy and control.**

The rise of a politically conscious urban Black work force has been exactly what the racists in South Africa did not want. As the Sharpeville protest and the recent Durban strikes show—millions of exploited African workers packed into the cities means a potential for rebellion.

1936—1 million Blacks in the cities of South Africa

1946—2 million

1960—3½ million

1968—over 5 million

The influx of African workers into the cities has been the fastest growing part of the population.

In February of 1973 nearly 50,000 African workers went on strike in Durban, protesting slave wages and deplorable working conditions (See box below).

U.S. auto companies know all too well what the concentration of large numbers of exploited and oppressed Black workers means: the Detroit rebellion in 1967 and the increasingly militant activity of Black workers in the Detroit auto plants—in their own backyards—have made that lesson crystal clear.

In Detroit, in the summer of 1967, tanks, armoured trucks, state troopers and the national guard quickly mobilized during the rebellion to form a wall of protection around the Big Three's plants. Since then the auto companies have promoted and supported the creation of STRESS, fascist-like tactical squad that polices the Detroit Black community, murdering 16 Black people in 1972 alone.

"PUT ALL AFRICANS IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS"

In order to halt this "dangerous" influx of African workers into the cities, the South African government and foreign capitalists have come up with the so-called "border industry" plan. In order to stabilize what is potentially an explosive situation, plants and corporations are beginning to relocate out of the cities, near

AFRICAN WORKERS FIGHT BACK—STRIKES SWEEP SOUTH AFRICA

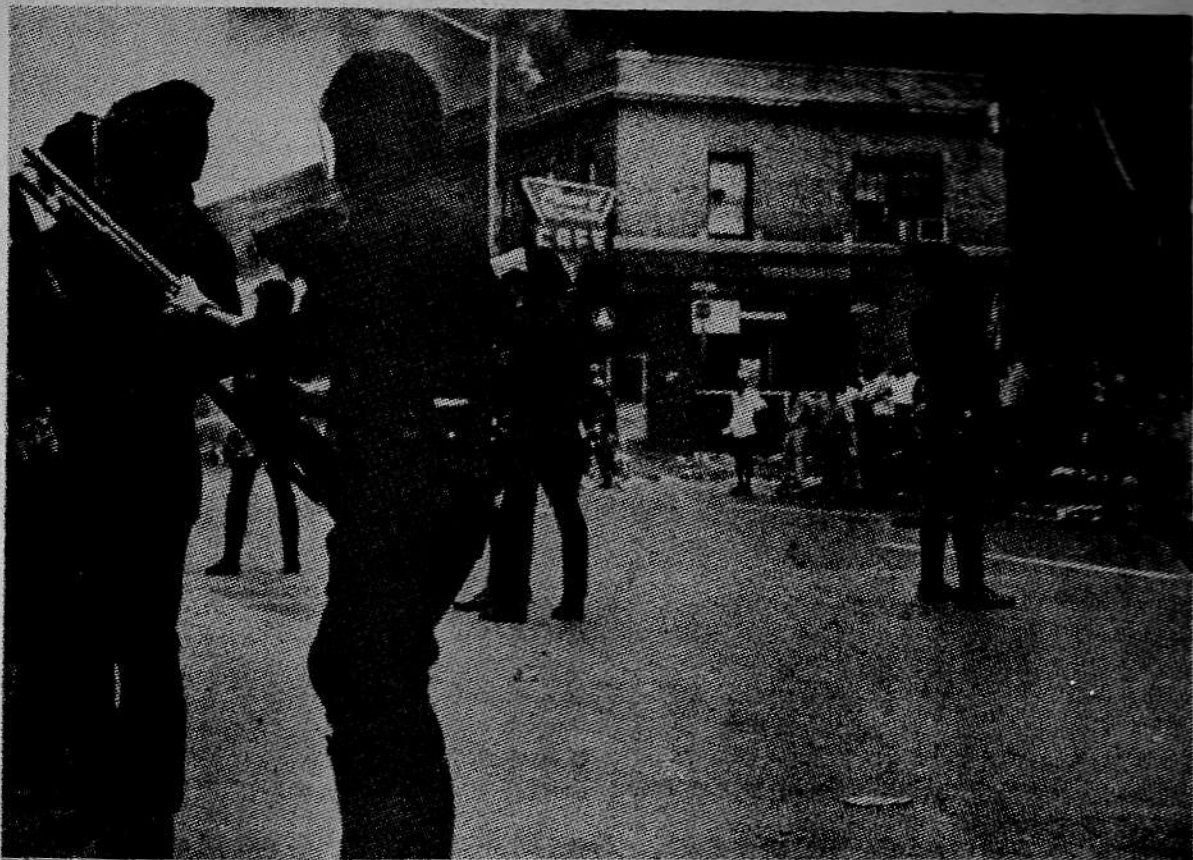
In February 1973, nearly 50,000 militant African workers marched through the streets of Durban. Durban is South Africa's most important port and its third largest city. The strike paralysed municipal services and brought production in more than 100 firms to a halt.

Groups of dockworkers, bricklayers, textile and rubber workers, and municipal employees took to the streets to demonstrate in favor of higher wages, better working conditions, and to register their opposition to the racist South African government.

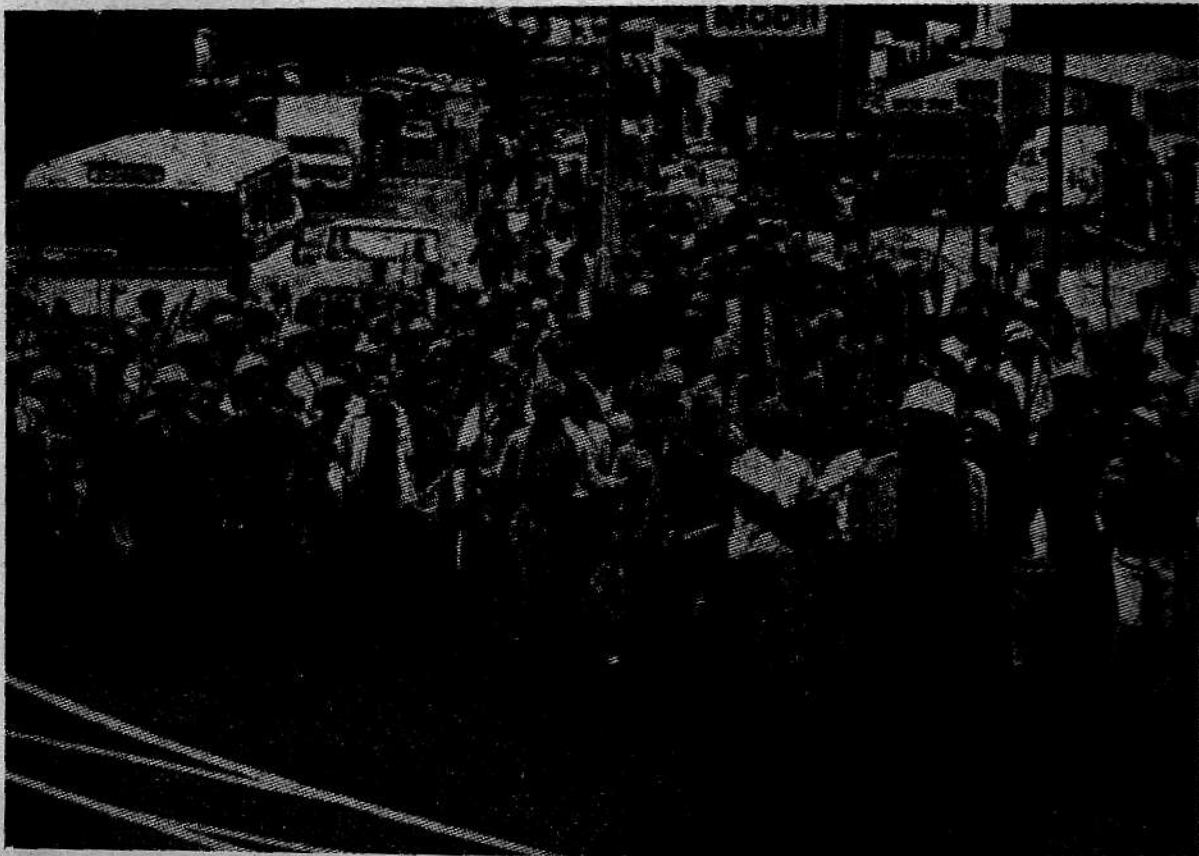
The striking Durban workers were fighting for their survival. In 1973 the average Black worker earned \$30.00 a month, while whites averaged \$475.00. The workers' basic demand was for \$13 more per week to catch up with the soaring cost of living in South Africa. A saying in the African townships goes: "We are paid as Africans, but we have to buy as white men."

In response to the massive Durban strike, the South African government airlifted in police reinforcements from Pretoria. Workers and demonstrators were attacked, beaten and arrested. Despite the repression, the Durban strike spread to Johannesburg, Capetown, East London, and other cities.

Many strikers went back to work with wage increases. But more important, tens of thousands of African workers began to understand the power they hold—to bring the South African economy to a halt.



Detroit rebellion—July 1967.



Striking brick and tile workers march through Durban, led by worker with a red flag—February 1973.

Bantustans. The wages of African workers forced to live there are even lower, and the population (they hope) can be more easily controlled.

This plan requires and has received the full support of the U.S. companies. Ford, Chrysler, Kaiser and Firestone have all agreed to move. In several instances they have already relocated. Ford, for example, pays African workers in these border areas as little as \$.53 an hour, Firestone as little as \$.35.

Within the next few years **EVERY AFRICAN IN THE COUNTRY** will be required to live on these modern day reservations. Under this policy over 70 percent of the population, who are Black, are being forced to live on less than 13 percent of the land.

RESISTANCE

Despite such elaborate measures the African people are continuing to resist, in the rural areas as well as in the cities.

In Namibia (Southwest Africa), which the South African regime occupies illegally in defiance of the United Nations, 12,000 African miners staged a general strike that immobilized the country's economy in December, 1972. One of the main targets of the strike was the Tsumeb copper mine, owned by American Metal Climax. Leaving their "contracts" behind, the mainly Ovambo miners simply returned to their homeland in northern Namibia.

FROM SHARPEVILLE TO DURBAN

After years of peaceful protest and brutal repression, the struggle inside South Africa and in the surrounding countries has escalated.

Inside South Africa we are witnessing an

increase in mass workers struggle and organized resistance. In June of 1972, African bus drivers in Johannesburg wildcatted, disrupting transportation services for several days. There have been six major strikes in Durban since the beginning of 1973. In the last 2 years, twice as many African workers have been arrested for striking than during the entire period from 1964 to 1970.

CALL TO ARMS

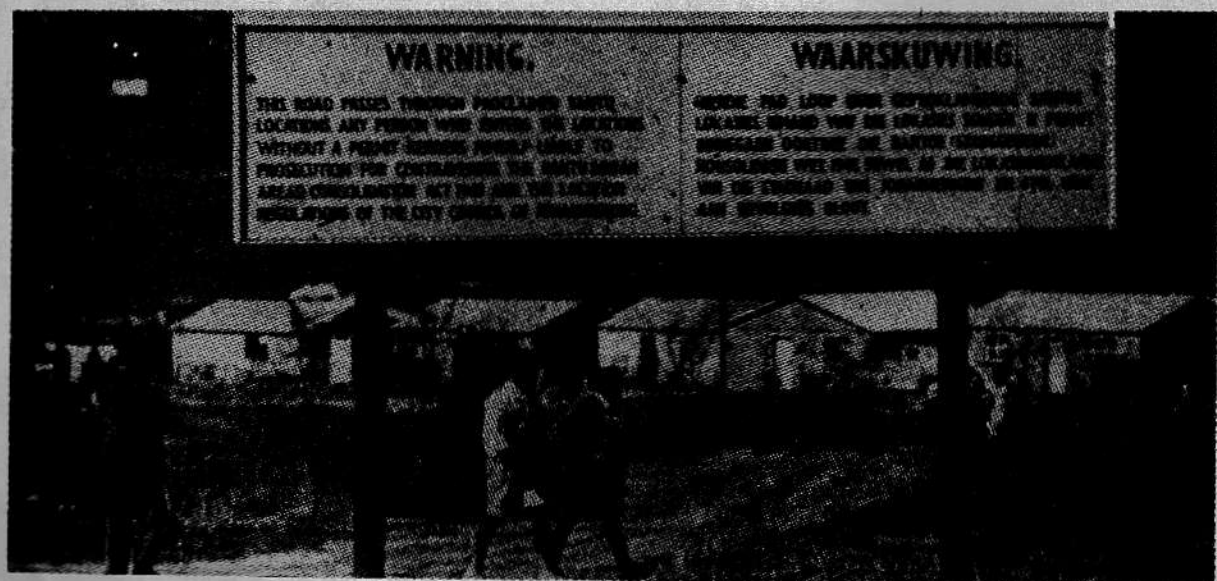
In Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia, African people have taken up arms in order to free themselves from the domination and exploitation of minority white governments (see map).

In the countries of southern Africa 30 million Black people suffer under the absolute domination of less than 8 million whites.

In Zimbabwe white minority rule means that less than 400,000 Europeans control and live on more land than do over 7 million Africans; it means that ten times as much is spent educating a white child as is spent on an African child; it means 8 times as many Black babies die as infants each year as do white babies.

In the Portuguese colonies of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, white minority rule means that African workers earn less than \$145 a year while whites earn more than \$2000. Portugal is the last remaining European power that claims direct "ownership" of African territory.

As the struggle in southern Africa intensified, as more and more territory is liberated, the United States can be expected to increase its economic and military support to the South African government, to Portugal, and to the Ian Smith regime in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).





Frelimo fighters in Mozambique holding a political education class.



Woman cadre of Angolan liberation forces.

INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT

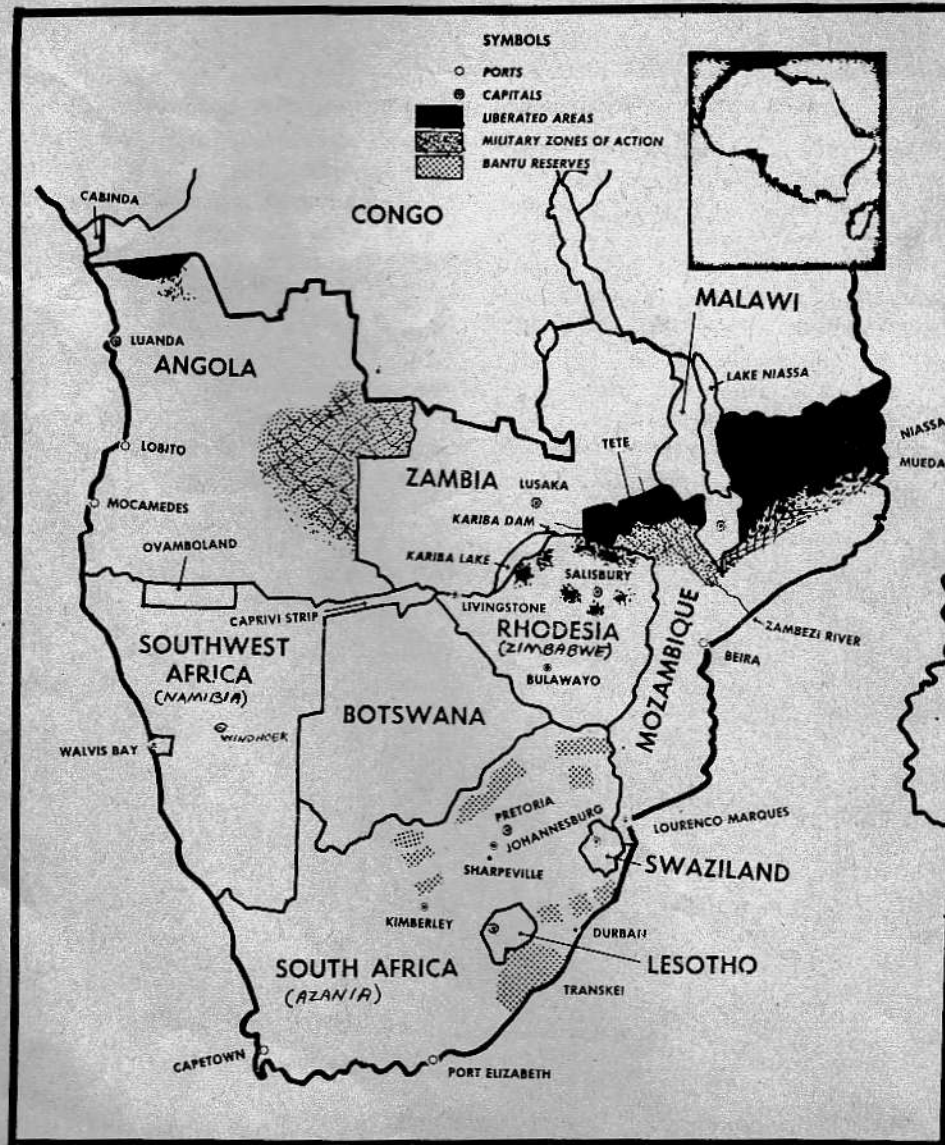
Last year Nixon used an Executive Order to provide Portugal with a \$400 million loan, the major part of which will be used against African freedom fighters in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. In 1972 the Byrd Amendment was passed allowing Rhodesian chrome to enter the United States, in violation of UN and international sanctions. Chrysler was indicted by a federal grand jury in January 1973, for illegally sending military engines to Portugal.

The sales of U.S. arms to Portugal and the buying of chrome from Rhodesia have one very specific purpose: to protect U.S. investments and strengthen these governments. For example, Gulf Oil has major concession rights in Angola, supplying the Portuguese with more than \$30 million a year in revenue. Union Carbide and Foote Mineral control 90 percent of Rhodesia's chrome production.

The South African government has hundreds of troops in Rhodesia to help "secure" the Smith regime against the increasing attacks of African revolutionaries. African liberation forces have exposed the existence of South African troops fighting in Angola and Mozambique alongside Portuguese troops.

South Africa is an important and powerful force opposing African liberation in its own right, but standing behind the South African government and propping it up is the United States. The U.S. sees South Africa as the first line of defense for the protection of its investments throughout southern Africa. The U.S. has more at stake in South Africa than in any other African country.

That is what African freedom fighters mean when they say they are not just fighting the racist governments of southern Africa but the imperialist interests of the U.S. as well.



Black Workers' Common Struggle

Therefore, we as Black People—as workers, inside the United States—must let our brothers and sisters know through word and action that we understand that ours is a common fight.

We must let our brothers and sisters struggling on the African continent know that we stand shoulder to shoulder with them as they wage war to take back their land, and free themselves from the yoke of imperialist exploitation and white colonial domination.

We must let them know that the struggle for African liberation is a struggle on two fronts against a common enemy that has exploited Black people in the U.S. and Africa since the days of the slave trade.

We understand that the people of Africa are their own liberators. They will make their own history in freeing themselves.

But every victory in the fight against GM, Ford, Chrysler, IBM, IT&T in Africa is also our victory. Every roll back of speed-up, racism, slave wages and conditions here is a step toward weakening the stranglehold that these corporations have on oppressed and exploited people

around the world—Our struggle is a common one.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

There are things that we as Black people, especially as Black workers, can do:

First, we must organize to wage struggle against the increasing attacks upon workers inside the U.S. in the form of speed-ups, lay-offs, and wage freeze. We, like the Durban workers, must resist being squeezed any further. While we get squeezed, profits for GM, Ford, and Chrysler are at an all time high.

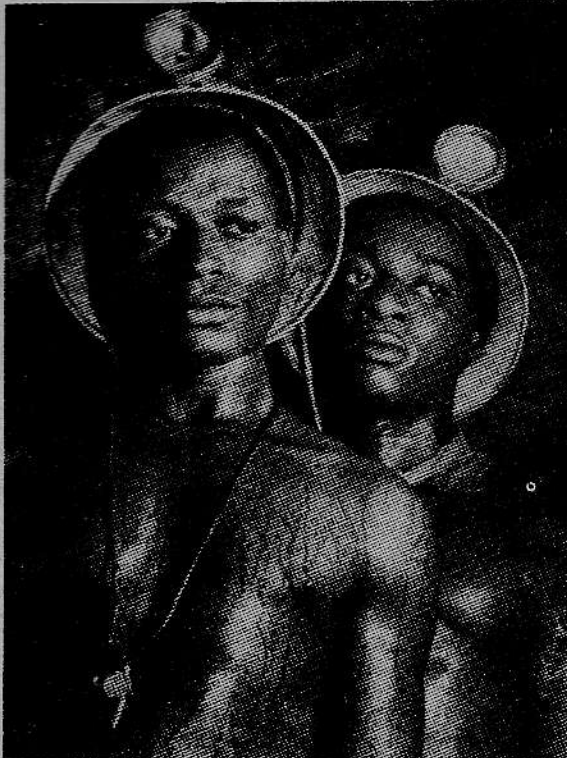
Inside our locals, unions and caucuses we must be in the forefront of protests against:

- rising unemployment
- cut-backs in badly needed health and welfare programs
- increased repression and police brutality in our communities
- the rising cost of living. As the lowest paid workers we are hard hit by run-away food costs.



THEIR STRUGGLE IS

African miners—producers of South Africa's great wealth.



Angolan freedom fighters train to fight Portuguese.

Zimbabwean people protesting racist Smith regime.



S OUR STRUGGLE!



Daycare demonstration on Triborough Bridge in New York City—March 1973.



In Vietnam, Black GIs led resistance to the war and military racism.



Key union drive in South Carolina. 700 textile workers, mostly Black and women, have been on strike against Oneita Mills since January 1973.

SUPPORT FOR MOVEMENTS OF LIBERATION IN AFRICA

Specifically around African Liberation support we can:

1. Organize within our locals, unions and caucuses support for and participation in the work of the African Liberation Support Committee.

2. We can organize within our unions and work places African Liberation support activities to raise funds for financial and medical support for brothers and sisters struggling in southern Africa.

3. Organize to participate—under our own banner as workers—at the African Liberation Day May 26th demonstration.

4. We can organize to protest the involvement of US companies and the U.S. government in the oppression of the people of southern Africa.

Some important expressions of solidarity have already taken place:

- The Polaroid revolutionary workers' movement in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where brothers and sisters came together to demand that Polaroid stop selling and making "pass photos" for the South African government.
- In April 1972, Black longshoremen in Burnside, Louisiana, refused to unload chrome from Rhodesia. They were supported by a demonstration of 300 Black students from nearby Southern University. This ore was being shipped to the U.S. in violation of a UN embargo. Chrome sales provide the racist Smith regime with the money they need to buy more guns, napalm, and other military equipment to further oppress the Zimbabwean people.
- In August of 1972, dockworkers in Baltimore refused to unload cargo from Rhodesia. These examples must be multiplied.

SUPPORT MOVEMENTS FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION!
SUPPORT WORKERS' STRUGGLES!



African Liberation Day, 1972. Over 50,000 Black people rallied from coast to coast.

FOR INFORMATION AND DONATIONS

ANC (African National Congress of South Africa)
Mayibuye
P.O. Box 1791
Lusaka, Zambia

Sechaba
49 Rathbone Street
London W. 1, England

FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front)
Mozambique Revolution
P.O. Box 15274
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union)
Zimbabwe News
P.O. Box 2331
Lusaka, Zambia

ZAPU (Zimbabwe African Peoples Union)
Zimbabwe Review
283 Grays Inn Road
London W.C.1, England

MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola)
Information Department
Box 20793
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

PAC (Pan Africanist Congress of Azania S.A.)
Azania News
P.O. Box 2412
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

PAIGC (African Party for Independence
of Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde Islands)
Bulletin
Box 298
Conakry, Republic of Guinea

SWAPC (South West Africa Peoples Organization)
Namibia Today
P.O. Box 298
Conakry, Republic of Guinea

SWANU (South West African National Union)
Information Department
Jerum 2306
Studentbacken 23
Stockholm 11540, Sweden

UNITA (National Union for the Total
Independence of Angola)
Information Department
P.O. Box 2246
Lusaka, Zambia

NEW FROM UNITED FRONT PRESS

- INTERNATIONAL RUNAWAY SHOP: Why U.S. Companies Are Moving Plants Abroad 40¢
- GI REVOLTS: The Breakdown of the U.S. Army in Vietnam, by Richard Boyle 40¢
- DEMAND FOR BLACK LABOR, by Harold Baron (Radical America) 50¢
- ATTICA!—VOICES FROM INSIDE (Attica Defense Committee) 50¢
- FOOD PRICES ARE HIGH—WHY? 15¢

Send for our free catalogue.

UNITED FRONT PRESS
PO Box 40099
San Francisco, CA 94140
[415] 647-6727

