

EDITORIAL

Ruling class crisis

In the last few months there are more signs of the deep crisis facing the apartheid system. There are power struggles between factions of the Nationalist Party - like conflict between PW's and FW's cliques and Heunis and other MP's have resigned. There are the corruption scandals which show the decay in the ruling bloc. The economy is suffering: inflation and sanctions are eating away the confidence of the employers; growth has stopped. At the same time, the masses are demanding housing, jobs and a living wage. The Emergency has failed to crush the determination of the people. Many whites are breaking away from the Nats and are looking elsewhere for a solution to the crisis. Our task is to harness these forces. Because their future is inseparable from ours.

AAC

This is why COSATU is committed to Anti-Apartheid Coalition of all forces opposed to apartheid. The coalition must be as broad as the struggle demands. Last year the state banned the AA Conference because it realised that maximum unity of anti-apartheid forces would further isolate and weaken apartheid. The MDM is committed to reconvening an anti-apartheid conference later this year.

Murder in Natal

A leading NUMSA member, Cde Jabu Ndlovu, has died ten days after she was shot in the head and badly burnt in a vigilante attack on her home in Imbali, Pietermaritzburg. Cde Jabu's husband and eldest daughter were murdered in the attack - which happened shortly after Cde Jabu returned from NUMSA's Congress in Joburg. Cde Jabu represented Imbali residents at a briefing we had recently to expose police collusion in the violence in Pietermaritzburg. COSATU members and the people of Maritzburg are saying - This is the last straw. Enough is enough. The murderers must be stopped. Peace must reign. Comrades are discussing action to stop the killings.

We call on Inkatha to hold an urgent meeting with COSATU/UDF affiliates to discuss obstacles to peace. We further reiterate our demand for an independent Commission of Enquiry into police conduct in the continuing violence. COSATU, together with its allies, calls for all parties committed to ending violence in Natal to agree to a Peace Conference to launch a mass peace movement.

Cosatu Secretariat



MAY DAY mobilises hundreds of thousands

It was the biggest and best May Day since 1986. Big rallies were held in almost every region. Many thousands of workers, youth and unemployed, as well as the community, took part in a day of mass meetings, culture, sport, freedom songs and militant speeches. There were 35 rallies throughout the country.

The factories stood still, the shops empty and transport stopped - a major victory in our long struggle for May Day. It also strengthened our demand for May Day to be a paid public holiday for all workers on May Day - NOT on Botha's "workers day".

It was a day of united national mobilisation against apartheid and capitalist exploitation. It was a day of unity against the LRA. It was a day of building unity in struggle of all workers of our land. It was a day which showed that workers all over the country are ready and willing to fight for what we need.

This is a round-up of what happened in SA:

Western Cape

Joint May Day rally with other forces in the mass democratic movement at the Athlone Stadium in Cape Town. 6000 people attend. Cde Fred Gona and Namibian, GAWU and UDF speakers. Choirs, dance groups, soccer, bands and a march past of unions took place. Other successful May Day rallies were held in George, Stellenbosch, Worcester and Atlantis. There was culture and choirs at every rally.

Eastern Cape

Joint May Day rally with NACTU at the Dan Queque stadium in New Brighton, PE. 40 000 people attended. Barayi, Mdaweni (NACTU) and a comrade from Namibia spoke. Also culture, sport, music. Other rallies were held in East London, Queenstown and Grahamstown. In Umtata, a rally organised by the NUM drew about 5 000 people. This is the first May Day rally to be held

Every worker a COSATU member!

in a bantustan.

Southern Natal

Rally in Madadeni. 3 000 workers attended. Culture, songs and speeches from each affiliate. Two rallies in Durban: Umlazi and Natal University drew about 5 000 workers each. Joint COSATU/NACOS sport and soccer were held at Curries Fountain on the Saturday. 3,000 workers attended a rally in Ladysmith

Northern Cape/Orange Free State

Rally in Galeshewe for 3 hours with magistrate's permission. About 500 people. Speakers from affiliates, local and civics. NUM choir sings.

Bloemfontein rally had good attendance. Speakers from affiliates, youth, SAHWCO and Vodec (detainees organisation). Mass meeting in Botshabelo.

Wits

Rally at Wits University. Two thousand attended. Comrade Jay Naidoo was one of the speakers. Poets, choirs, music groups, as well as a bookstall. Soweto rally banned at the last minute, but scores of workers turn up at Jabulani.

N Tvl

Rallies in Mamelodi, Soshanguve, Brits, Rustenburg, Potgietersrus, Phalaborwa. All meetings were packed. Soshanguve had about 3,000 people. Three of the Alex 5 spoke at the 2 Pretoria rallies.

Highveld

Rallies in 7 areas: Witbank, Middleburg, Bethal, Embalenhle, Standerton, Leandra, Nelspruit. About 5 000 attended. The speakers were from different unions. In various locals community and youth participated, with youth doing plays and songs.

W Tvl

Massive open air rally in Sharpeville. More than 5 000 workers. Speakers were comrade Jay Naidoo from COSATU and Cunningham Ngcakhulu from NACTU. Also meeting in Klerksdorp and Carltonville and Lenz.

Northern Natal

There were meetings in Empangeni and Mandini

Security forces kept a low profile at most of the meetings. Rallies in Potchefstroom, Kroonstad and Ermelo were called off because of police harassment. In Kroonstad 2 comrades from SARHWU and SADWU were detained for a time.

Union federation organised a massive march of hundreds of thousands of workers through Warsaw. There was also an official celebration by the government supporting trade unions which attracted about 20,000 people.

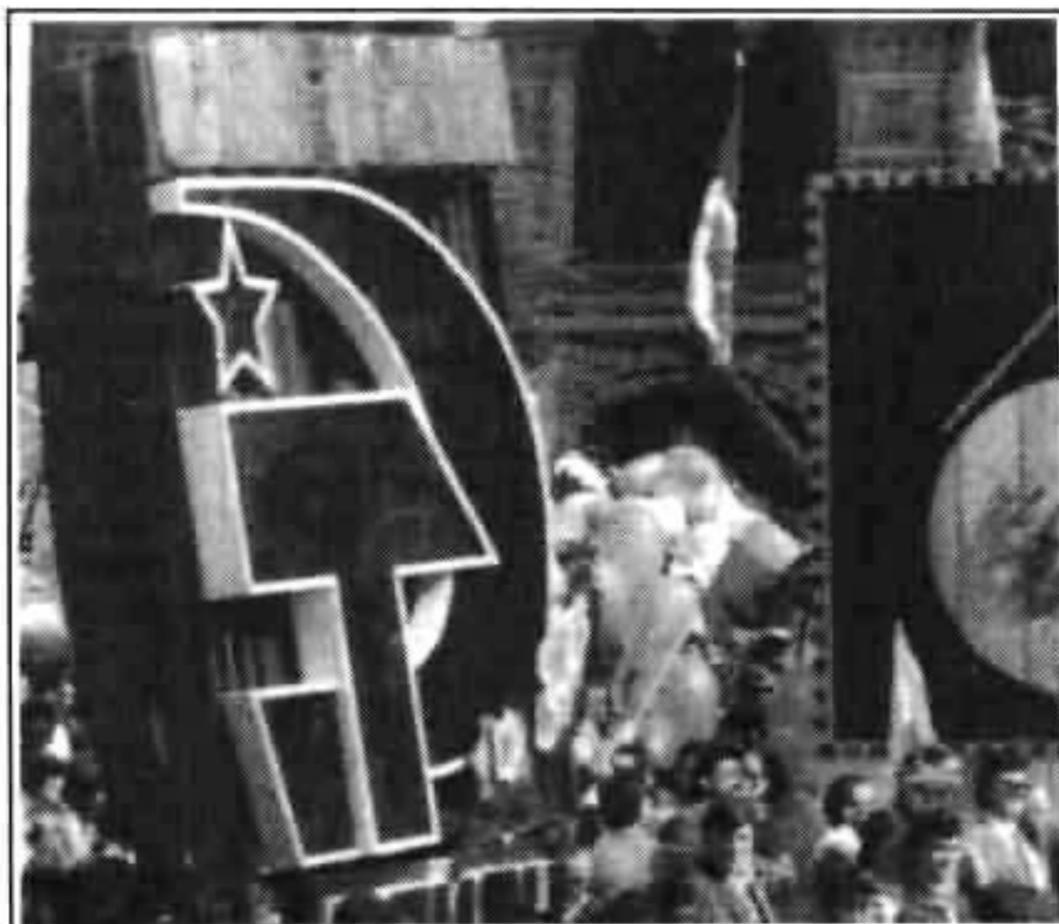
Police and May Day demonstrators fought each other in **Czechoslovakia, East Germany, South Korea, West Berlin, Turkey and the Philippines.**

Tens of thousands of **Zimbabwean** workers attended a rally at a stadium in Harare. They heard Mugabe express solidarity with the SA liberation struggle.

In the **Philippines** suppressed workers threatened a general strike.

In **Moscow's** Red Square tens of thousands of Soviet workers celebrated May Day. This time there was no military parade, but a range of colourful cultural activities.

In 2 **South Korean** cities striking workers battled with police after attempting to stage May Day rallies. About 6 600 people were arrested. The strike wave is for higher wages and better working conditions.



This is a round-up of May Day world-wide:

In **Pakistan**, the government marked May Day by lifting the ban on workers organisation in state broadcasting and the airlines. Trade unions organised May Day rallies in major Pakistani cities.

Spanish socialists and communists marched through Madrid in a common front against the government.

In **Poland** police and May Day demonstrators clashed in Wroclaw and Gdansk. The Solidarity Free Trade

In **Western Germany** 600 000 workers turned out for mass May Day rallies.

In **Istanbul, Turkey**, police detained at least 70 people after clashes during May Day marches which left 16 people injured.

In **Havana** Fidel Castro led 800 000 **Cubans** through Revolution Square. The comrades who came back from the Angolan war also took part in the parade.

Every COSATU member an organiser!