

WORKERS OF THE WORLD



Miner leader murdered by death squad

PERU - THE general secretary of the Peruvian Mineworkers Federation (FNTMMSP), Saul Cantoral was recently murdered by a right wing paramilitary death squad. Last issue *NUM News* wrote about the bravery of the striking Peruvian miners.

The union had threatened to make preparations for another strike as the government had failed to meet agreements made last year.

Conditions in the Peruvian mining industry are very bad, and workers receive on average \$1 a day.

The Peruvian government declared last year's October strike illegal, and raided union offices and arrested officials. Striking miners were fined and the Peruvian army deployed on the mines. Throughout both strikes last year the employers refused to come to the negotiating table.

President of the union, Moises Palomino, received death threats and Saul Cantoral was briefly kidnapped and interrogated.

On Monday 13 February Saul Cantoral and a woman teacher, Consuelo Garcia, were kidnapped and shot. In a tribute to Comrade Cantoral, the Miners International Federation said "under his leadership the union achieved a cohesion not seen for a decade". The NUM sent its condolences and a message of solidarity.

MOZAMBIQUE - Mozambique has negotiated an agreement with Brazil to develop its coal reserves.

FRANCE - The biggest French miners union, the CST, has demanded an end to all South African coal imports into France.

Anglo is trying very hard to buy Gold Fields

A BATTLE being fought by giant mineowners in the boardrooms of London could affect the daily lives of thousands of mineworkers. An Anglo-owned company wants to buy Gold Fields and sell it again.

The NUM says the possible-Consgold sale could have serious results for Gold Fields workers.

Anglo-owned Minorco is trying to take over Consgold (Consolidated Gold Fields PCL) which owns 38 percent of Gold Fields of South Africa. Minorco said if it succeeds in its take-over bid of Consgold it will sell Gold Fields.

Minorco, registered in Luxembourg, is controlled by Anglo-American and De Beers - two branches of the Oppenheimer family's mining empire.

Consgold's directors do not want to sell the company to Minorco.

Apartheid connection

They argue that the South African connection will harm the company which also has large American and Australasian interests.

Consgold has tried to separate the question of doing business in South Africa - a country which accounts for 15 percent of its profits - and being under South African control.

Consgold - which protested to the British and American govern-

ments - said if Minorco's bid goes through Anglo American will increase its share of the western world's gold supply from 20 to 32 percent.

In a letter sent to Anglo American on 23 October, the NUM said it was very concerned that if Anglo succeeds in its take-over bid of Consgold it would sell Gold Fields "without negotiating with our union".

The letter said if Anglo wanted to sell Gold Fields it should get the union's approval of the buyer's labour relations policy.

No union-bashing

The NUM said conditions of sale should also include that all existing recognition agreements will be kept, and that NUM officials should have full rights of access.

Workers should have the rights under new ownership to join the union of their choice, hold union meetings and that shaft stewards should be recognised.

NUM also called on Anglo to make sure that the new owner of Gold Fields would agree not to rely on the anti-union Labour Relations Act to resolve problems, not to call the SAP onto the property during strikes and not to use mass dismissals.

The letter said the new owners should not rely on emergency regulations as a means of intimidating trade unions.

Cubans celebrate 30 years

"The triumph of the Cuban revolution was a historical event of continental significance, an extraordinary challenge to Yankee imperialism, to its political, economic and military might. Indeed they were not prepared to tolerate the peaceful development of our revolution".

This historic statement made 15 years ago by President Fidel Castro became even more meaningful on January 1 when Cuba celebrated the 30th Anniversary of its revolution.

In major talks to the nation, President Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba told the progressive world the revolution would succeed, much against the wishes of Cuba's enemies.

"Those who dream that the Revolution may perhaps be swept away are fooling themselves, those who dream such folly, fail to realise that the Revolution which is a continuation of the history of our country, its highest stage, one might say will celebrate its 40th, 50th, 60th and 100th anniversaries and many more. Of this we have no doubt", said President Castro.

Day of victory

Remembering the historic events of the victory day 30 years ago Castro said: "January 1, marked not just the climax of a long fighting effort of our people throughout many years, throughout nearly 100 years at the time."

Spanish colonialism

Cuba under Spanish colonialism and later American imperialism was condemned to a state of economic and cultural backwardness.

"Economically it served as the backyard of American corporations and absentee landlords. These foreign plunderers turned Cuba into a gambling resort and a haven for drug peddling and street prostitution.

The people of Cuba were condemned to cultural backwardness, hunger and death by American imperialism with the military dictator, Batista, as the supervisor of their super profits.

The Revolution crushed the Batista military dictatorship and all its repressive state structures and established a people's democratic state.

Castro describes the Cuban State as follows: "When a state

such as ours represents the interests of the workers, whatever its structure and form the result is bound to be a far more democratic type of state than any other before in history, because the state of the workers, the state that builds socialism is - under any and all conditions - a state of majorities, while previous states have been instruments of exploiting minorities".

The Revolution taught the people of Cuba that their freedom was inextricably linked with freedom of all peoples dominated and exploited by imperialism.

50 000 additional fighters would have been needed, our people would have been capable of sending them!

"Our doctors are in scores of countries, our construction workers, our teachers are there donating their services and we're the country with the highest number of foreign students per capita. Just on the Isle of Youth there are over 10 000 foreign students."

It is this spirit and solidarity that finally ended South Africa's presence in Angola after the Cuito Cuavale incident.



FIDEL CASTRO: Cuba will support other Third World countries against imperialist aggression

The Third World countries as the main victims of imperialist political manipulations and economic plunder are the main beneficiaries of Cuba's internationalist spirit.

The newly independent countries under the threat of imperialist aggression get invaluable military support from Cuban internationalist forces to defend their hard won victories.

Co-operation

President Castro acknowledged this massive internationalist awareness: "We have proof of this every day, not just from statistics - over 300 000 of our compatriots have fulfilled internationalist missions in Angola through Revolutionary Armed Forces."

"That does not include civilian co-operation workers. This is shown by the fact that at this moment there are 50 000 of our compatriots in Angola, and something still more important, if

It was only after this that the South African government agreed to withdraw from Angola

Independence

and the granting of Namibian independence. The uncompromising principle support of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) became clear during settlement talks.

"And we said very clearly in the face of certain demands by the racist South Africans that there would be no accord if we had to comply with certain demands and that if necessary we were prepared to remain there 10, 15, 20 more years. On all this we were acting in close co-ordination with the govt of the PRA", said Fidel Castro.

Castro strongly condemned American aggression against weaker Third World countries. He reiterated his country's commitment to peace and security.