

# MAY 1st — WORKERS DAY

On May 1st 1896 over 340 000 American workers went on strike in support of a demand for an 8-hour working day. The police killed eleven workers. Four workers were falsely charged with killing a policeman and hanged. Workers throughout the world demonstrated support for their American brothers. From that time workers everywhere began to celebrate May 1st as their day.

In the capitalist countries May Day is a commemoration of past victories which workers won in militant struggles. It is also a rededication to defend those gains and to continue the struggle for socialism. In the socialist countries May Day is a celebration of the progress possible when the working class seizes state power, takes over the means of production and ends all oppression and exploitation. It is also a day of support and solidarity with all those fighting for peace, freedom and socialism.

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For us May Day is a day on which we demonstrate against the inhuman apartheid system and the super-exploitation of the black working class; against the millions of unemployed, starvation wages, increases in the general sales tax, the uprooting and dumping of millions into the Bantustans, and malnutrition and infant mortality which wipes out our children, the denial of skilled jobs and the system of inferior education for blacks.

On May Day 1985 we must intensify the struggle for freedom. With a long and proud record of struggle our working class is today more organised, united and militant than ever. The use of troops, the murder of over 170 people, the injuring of thousands, the sackings, victimisations and arrests have failed to curb the militancy of the people. It is the working class which must show the way to all the oppressed and democratic forces in our fight to destroy the racist system. May Day is a day of struggle.



## PEN PICTURES OF SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNISTS



### YUSUF MOHAMED DADOO

Dr Yusuf Mohamed Dadoo was born in Krugersdorp in 1909 and, after attending school in South Africa and India, qualified as a doctor in Edinburgh. Returning to South Africa in 1936, he was one of the founders of the Non-European United Front in 1938 and joined the Communist Party in 1939. He was elected President of the Transvaal Indian Congress in 1945 and President of the South African Indian Congress in 1950. In 1947 he was a co-signatory of the Dadoo-Xuma-Naicker Pact pledging co-operation of Africans and Indians in the struggle against discriminatory and oppressive laws and demanding full franchise rights for all. He was jailed for taking part in the passive resistance campaign of 1946, defiance campaign of 1952 and on several other occasions. After the 1960 state of emergency was declared, Dadoo was sent abroad to organise the external apparatus of the CP and SAIC. Elected National Chairman of the SACP in 1972, he died in 1983. He was awarded *Isitwalandwe-Seaparankoe* in 1955 and received many other international orders.

### JOHN 'BEAVER' MARKS ('J B')

John 'Beaver' Marks — J B — was born in Ventersdorp, Western Transvaal, in 1903. He started work as a teacher but was sacked after appearing on the platforms of the ICU, the ANC and the Communist Party, which he joined in 1929. He played a big part in reviving the Transvaal ANC in the thirties and was elected Transvaal President of the ANC in 1950. In 1942 he was elected President of the African Mineworkers Union and led the strike of 100 000 workers which paralysed the mines in 1946. A member of the executive of the ANC and elected chairman of the Communist Party at its 5th Congress in 1962, J B Marks was sent abroad in 1963 to join the external mission of the ANC. He died in 1972.

**WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!**