

South African Black unions lead apartheid fight

Resistance to apartheid is gaining momentum inside South Africa, just as it is internationally. At the leading edge of the struggle is the independent Black trade union movement which is "growing both in its strength and in its anger at what is happening in the townships," as Phiroshaw Camay, general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA), put it at a press conference following the meeting of the executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Washington.

Leaders of the world's free labor unions stressed during the ICFTU meeting that the international campaign to eliminate apartheid is geared to the needs of the Black workers and their unions, who they see as the great hope of South Africa.

"I want to stress that what we do is in response to the needs as expressed by our South African trade union friends," ICFTU Gen.-Sec. John Vanderveken told reporters. "It is not a program that we dream up for them. It is worked out with them."

A delegation of top leaders of the South African Black unions took part in the ICFTU meeting. It included Camay and President Chris Dlamini of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU). CUSA and FOSATU are the two largest groupings in the independent Black union movement.

As apartheid continues to grip their nation, the Black trade unions are rapidly expanding and have become more articulate in their demands. Black membership has grown 800 percent since 1980. "They are claiming the application of fair labor standards generally, and

have made significant gains," Director General Francis Blandard of the International Labor Office pointed out in an address to the ICFTU board.

The large-scale work stoppages in the Transvaal area last November and other demonstrations since then reflect the growing impatience of Blacks with the government's refusal to abandon its apartheid policies.

The ICFTU board noted in a report on South African labor developments that in spite of these achievements union membership still only represents 15 percent of the workforce of the country, estimated at 10.3 million.

Union membership in 1983 was esti-

imated at 1.5 million, with Blacks numbering 671,194, or 43.4 percent of the total.

At the same time that the independent Black trade union movement is growing so rapidly, it has become a major target for repression by the authorities. Last year more than 250 persons were killed by security police and thousands injured, the report noted. Virtually the entire leadership of the South African Workers Unions is in jail facing treason charges, together with the whole leadership of the United Democratic Front.

Yet, despite setbacks, the independent Black trade union movement

has done more to generate international awareness of the true nature of apartheid than any other single group in the country.

The ICFTU leaders see the continued progress of the independent Black labor movement as the only truly positive development in South Africa.

"As the unions are daily becoming more professional, dynamic, with a remarkable maturity and confidence in handling negotiations and disputes, through their successes they are looked upon by the Black people of South Africa as the only hope for peaceful change," Vanderveken said.

(Reprinted from AFL-CIO News)

Norm Crosby to meet teens

Popular comedian Norm Crosby, known to millions as the "master of malaprop" will visit The Salvation Army's Greenhouse Center May 14 to meet some of Portland's toughest teenagers.

Crosby will visit the Greenhouse, a drop-in center for hardened street teens, between 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Crosby will be in town to make another appearance on behalf of the Rotary Club of Portland. Rotary co-sponsors the Greenhouse with The Salvation Army.

The Greenhouse Center opened nearly 18 months ago to provide hundreds of Portland's street teens with a sanctuary from their own violent life styles. At Greenhouse, kids receive hot meals, counseling, clothing and a number of other services, including emergency transportation home all across the country.

"Many of these kids are runaways with no other place to turn," said Lt. Col. David P. Riley, The Salvation Army's Cascade Division commander. "Greenhouse offers them hope for a tangible future."

Last month the Greenhouse staff completed a census of Portland's street youth and found that the typical street teen is a 16-year-old boy who has lived in doorways and flophouses for the past three years.

Although the census did not specifically delve into how street teens support themselves, Riley said that "it's fairly safe to assume" that the kids engage in prostitution, pimping and drug dealing to survive.

For more information about The Salvation Army-Rotary Greenhouse, contact Salvation Army Cascade Divisional Headquarters at 234-0825.

Infant care class free

Prepared Childbirth Association of Portland is sponsoring a free infant care class for expectant parents with the help of Babyland Diaper Service. This one-night seminar will include practical information on selecting equipment and choosing a doctor, as well as the latest tips on diapering, dressing, and bathing a newborn infant. The first of these sessions will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 1985, at 7:30 p.m. in Good Samaritan Hospital's Nursing Education Building, 2255 N.W. Northrup St., Room 108. For more information, or to pre-register, call Vicky at 245-3196.

Call Mom free at Jantzen Mall

Mom's the word at Jantzen Beach Center. Mall shoppers will be invited to call their mom and speak to her free for 3 minutes, anywhere in the U.S.A. The promotion, sponsored by Jantzen Beach Center and Allnet Communication Services Inc., will begin Thursday, May 9th and continue through Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th. Calls will be made from 3:30 - 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

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