

Down with apartheid now! Serious sanctions now! All out for Mandela!

Nelson Mandela is coming to Detroit on June 28 and 29. He will be at the Ford Rouge plant the afternoon of the 28th and at Tiger Stadium the evening of the 28th.

Mandela is pushing for:

- ending the state of emergency in South Africa;
- freeing political prisoners;
- abolishing certain racist, apartheid laws;
- sanctions against the racist, apartheid regime until these demands are met.

We Trotskyists urge all working people in the Detroit area, Black and white, to support the struggle for these demands and to build the largest possible working class and popular support for Mandela's meetings in Detroit.

The struggle for freedom for Black South Africans is essential for all working people in the Detroit area, Black and white. Freedom is essential to create the material conditions in which workers of all races and nationalities can unite against the billionaire owners of the banks and industries in the United States, Europe, and Japan, that collaborate in exploiting and oppressing working people throughout the world. As long as rich, power-

ful nations like those of the United States, Europe, and Japan, and their racist, colonialist, white puppets in South Africa, are allowed to

subjugate Black South Africa, unity between the workers of these different races and nationalities will be impossible. ■



Striking workers in South Africa.

Warn Mandela! Don't trust the billionaire owners of Ford, GM, and Chrysler!

Workers in the Detroit area, especially Black workers, need to warn Mandela and all exploited and oppressed people in Africa, not to trust the billionaire owners of Ford, GM, Chrysler, and other enterprises in the U.S.

Many of these billionaire owners now claim to be against racism and apartheid; some even claim to be for sanctions.

This is a lie.

Since Black people have acquired a majority within the city of Detroit, the billionaire owners of Ford, GM, and Chrysler have closed almost all of their plants within the city of Detroit. They have cut funds for jobs, homes, schools, health care, shopping and recreation facilities. Now the FBI is organizing racist provocations against well-known Blacks like Marion Barry, Coleman Young and Isiah Thomas, aimed at discrediting Blacks, and turning white workers against Blacks.

The billionaire owners are plotting to maintain their privileges and power in

South Africa, through the racist, colonialist whites. They are planning a legislature with two parts: one white with veto power and one Black. They are transferring ownership of various enterprises and privatizing various state enterprises so that when the Black majority does come to power, they will not have any resources in their hands.

Workers need to warn Mandela and all people of Africa not to trust the billionaire owners and their spokesmen, like George Bush.

The working class is the class that can and will carry out serious sanctions. Workers need to make an all-out fight now for a union boycott of all supplies to the racist, apartheid regime until this regime is totally isolated and destroyed.

The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit urges all workers and their organizations — including and especially tendencies associated with Trotskyism and the Fourth International — to make a common fight for these goals. ■

Interview with a Black Trotskyist

1. Can you tell us about yourself and what led you to become a Trotskyist?

I am from Martinique. It is a small island in the Caribbean. That is, I am a descendant of Black slaves, like the Black people in the United States.

Martinique and Guadeloupe live under the colonial domination of bourgeois and imperialist France. They are considered officially as overseas French departments. But, in reality, the workers of these countries do not have the same social rights that the workers of France have. They are forced to live under military surveillance that is very well-perfected; their culture is denied or ridiculed. For example, in Martinique, all the main routes are planned from the point of view of the most effective mobilization of the French armed forces that are omnipresent on the island. Even more, there exist in France, military forces that are specialized in rapid intervention in the overseas departments and territories and in Africa. The current struggles of the peoples of Gabon, of the Ivory Coast, and others, against imperialism's puppet and corrupt dictatorships, have shown the lightning-like rapidity of these military forces' intervention.

For a long time in Martinique and in Guadeloupe, social classes have developed in accord with race. Schematically, you had the white descendants of the slaveholders at the top of the pyramid, the mulattoes in the middle, and the Black proletarians and semi-proletarians at the bottom. This stratification was the expression of the colonial domination and at the same time an effective way to prolong colonial oppression. Today, this classification is no longer true, even if it is exceptional to find a white at the bottom of the social scale. However, the racism inherent in colonial domination comes across every day in the arrogance and the mistrust of the top French functionaries and the cadres of French society (the banks, public works, etc.) and in the violence of the armed forces.

Thus the people of Martinique and Guadeloupe have suffered the political oppression, the economic domination, and the military occupation of imperialist France. It was the struggle against this colonial domination, for national emancipation, for development as Black people, that mobilized many young people in the 70s in Martinique and Guadeloupe and that led me to look for a political program and to adhere to Trotskyism, as the most consistent and determined expression of the struggle of workers of all countries for socialism.

2. You are obviously very much concerned with the situation of Black people.

The struggles of Black people are very important to me. And I think they should be very important to conscious workers of all countries. Quite simply, because one of the most barbarous aspects of the international order of imperialism is the situation of the Black peoples.

What do you have on a world scale?



Gustave Lugiery

I explained very rapidly the colonial oppression that the peoples of Martinique and Guadeloupe suffer. It is also true for the Black people of Guiana and of New Caledonia. There is also the oppression of the Black people in the United States. You have the puppet dictatorships and the apartheid regime in Africa.

Without going back here to all the history that has taken place since the enslavement of the Black people, we can underline that history has followed a course that has made it so that wherever there is a Black people, we can affirm that they are part of the damned of the earth. There is not a country on this earth where Blacks can have the pleasure of enjoying freedom as a Black people. The African dictatorships are nothing but instruments in the hands of the imperialist powers.

In a manner that is almost instinctive, all Blacks feel this situation and pay great attention to the efforts of the militants of the Black people in the United States and to the struggle of the Black people of South Africa.

There is also a special effort on the part of the imperialist powers to separate the Black peoples from the general struggle of the oppressed and of the workers for socialism. We cannot deny that this effort has been relatively successful. However, the incorporation of the Black people in the United States into the first ranks of the struggle against American capitalism, and the total destruction of the apartheid regime in South Africa will, undoubtedly, strengthen the struggle of all the oppressed, of all the damned of the earth.

3. You have brought up a real problem; it is a basis to begin with, what is the road?

In such conditions, one can understand that any partial advance on the part of this or that Black people has an enormous importance for all Black people; any attempt to affirm oneself proudly, as Black, on the part of this or that people, in one form or another, even religious forms, tends to attract the sympathy of all Black people. It would be useless to affirm that there exists a sole road for the emancipation of the Black people. However, I can try to define the main traits of the road that is most viable, even if at first glance, it seems to be the most difficult.

I underlined the particular oppression that Black people suffer. That is, we are particularly interested in the overthrow, from

the bottom to the top, of the old order. We have nothing to lose. This pushes me to believe that the road that is the most sure is in the struggle for socialism. This, in my opinion, means:

1. the firmest possible integration of the struggles of the Black peoples of Africa, of the United States, and of the Caribbean islands, into the struggle of the workers and peoples of all continents against the capitalist exploitation of labor and against imperialist plunder;

2. bringing the most determined Black fighters into the struggle for the reconstruction of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution;

There exist, incontestably, many obstacles to advancing on this road. The enslavement of the Black peoples, the situation of the oppression of all the Black peoples ... all this has created very big trenches between the Blacks and the white workers. If we seek a rapprochement by means of humanist theories, we will not go very far. But if we place ourselves on the terrain of the objective interests of the Black peoples, of the white workers, and of the workers of all countries, we will certainly advance.

I put forward in a very general way what I consider to be the road forward. It is obvious that it is necessary to study things and to follow things very closely, to permit, at each phase of evolution, orienting very firmly toward these objectives; to show through each attempt, each experience, that if the Black peoples want to live freely, imperialism must die.

In our common struggle for the reconstruction of the Fourth International, we will deepen our thinking on this subject.

NOTES

Spark, a Trotskyist group in Detroit, is holding a forum, Sunday, June 24, at 7 p.m., at Pullman Hall, 4605 Cass Avenue. A film about the struggle in South Africa, called *Mapantsula*, will be shown; there will also be a presentation and discussion.

Black Workers for Justice, a black workers organizing committee from the South, will be in Detroit on Friday, July 6, in the evening, at the union hall at 1550 Howard. They are touring the Midwest in order to build support for their organizing efforts in the South. For further information call 842-6262.

Socialist Action, a Trotskyist tendency affiliated with the United Secretariat, a tendency of the Fourth International, is organizing a rally on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Leon Trotsky, Saturday, July 7, in San Francisco. For further information, call (415) 821-0458.

TRUTH

Truth is a revolutionary Trotskyist bulletin addressed to working people and all oppressed people in the Detroit area. We Trotskyists are fighting for the liberation of the working class and all oppressed people from all forms of exploitation and oppression; for a classless society, in which there is no rich and no poor, no top and no bottom, no want and no suffering, and no privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats, like those in China, Eastern Europe, or the USSR. In other words, we Trotskyists are fighting for a truly socialist and communist society. We are struggling to build a working class party, truly devoted to this struggle, to lead it to victory. And we are struggling to rebuild our International, the Trotskyist Fourth International, by fighting for our International's program and for unifying all forces prepared to do the same.

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY TROTSKYIST BULLETIN IN DETROIT-FOUNDED 1974

Edited by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit, Supporter of the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)

Bush and company ... Racist hypocrites!

George Bush, and many of the billionaire bankers and businessmen that he represents, now claim to support Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress against racist, white supremacist forces in the U.S. and South Africa. They suggest that they will maintain sanctions against the racist, apartheid regime in South Africa.

These are lies. Bush and company are racist hypocrites.

They are afraid of Black working people in the U.S. and South Africa, and of workers and oppressed peoples and their struggles for liberation throughout the world — from Cuba, to Nicaragua, to El Salvador, to Panama, to Palestine, to China, Germany, Romania, Azerbaijan, Lithuania ...

They are trying to buy time.

Their sanctions are toothless. They allow corporations like GM and Ford to transfer ownership of their corporations in South Africa to other corporations, and to continue to reap profits from their investments in South Africa. They allow corporations in the U.S. to continue to communicate with and ship funds and supplies to the racist, apartheid regime. Remember when the U.S. Congress voted against aid to the right-wing, reactionary "contras" in Nicaragua, and Reagan and Bush collected funds for them any way, with Ollie North!

The more and more the struggle against the racist, white supremacist regime in South Africa proceeds, the more and more it will be clear that the fate of this struggle depends on the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world, and that Bush and the billionaire owners of the banks and basic industries in the United States are the irreconcilable enemies of this struggle.

Black and white workers in the United States are already playing a role in the struggle; they will play a more and more important role.

In order to proceed most directly and most quickly to victory, we Trotskyists urge workers

to fight for:

1. **A total, international union boycott of all supplies to the racist, white supremacist regime in South Africa!** No confidence in racist hypocrites like George Bush and the bankers and businessmen he represents! Workers must monitor what goes to and comes from South Africa.

2. **Renew the struggle against racism in the United States!** Hands off Marion Barry! Hands off Coleman Young! Make the owners of GM, Ford and Chrysler hire additional Black people into the skilled trades, until the percentage is equal to the percentage of production workers! Black workers and white workers have fundamental class and political differences with upperclass Black politicians like Marion Barry and Coleman Young, but it is in their interests to

defend them against upperclass racist forces like Bush and the FBI.

3. **A workers party, a workers government, socialism!** The situation in Detroit and throughout the United States (factory closings, school closings, library closings, unemployment, drugs, violence, rising taxes, debts, financial crises ...) shows that this civilization has developed as far as it can on the basis of the current economic system in which a tiny class of billionaires own and control all the basic industries and banks. The working class needs to organize itself as a class, form its own party, its own government, take over basic industries and banks, and initiate a planned economy that fulfills the needs of the people. Just because Gorbachev, and other privileged, dictatorial bureaucrats in the USSR have totally abandoned this struggle for the liberation of the working class, does not mean that Black or white working people in the United States or South Africa should.

We Trotskyists urge all working class forces, especially working class Trotskyists, to enter into a common fight for these goals.

Trotskyist Committee of Detroit
Supporter of the International League
for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International
(World Party of Socialist Revolution)
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