

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 44, September 10, 1976

Present: Barnes, Blackstock, Berman, Garza, D. Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Miah, Seigle, Shaw, Thomas, Waters

Guests: Benson, Jaquith, Morell

Chair: Garza

AGENDA: 1. Steelworkers Convention
2. Election Campaign
3. South Africa
4. Membership

1. STEELWORKERS CONVENTION
(Rose invited for this point)

Rose reported on the United Steelworkers of America convention in Las Vegas, August 30-September 3. (See the September 17 issue of the Militant.)

Discussion

2. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Morell reported on our campaign to be included in the national television debates and on the status of our ballot drive.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. SOUTH AFRICA
(Bailey and Sedwick invited for this point)

Miah reported. (See attached.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Seigle reported on a recommendation from the New York local executive committee to admit S.S. as a provisionsl member at-large in Rochester, N.Y.

Discussion

Motion: To admit S.S. as a provisional member
at-large in Rochester, N.Y.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

REPORT ON CAMPAIGN TO END U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

by Malik Miah

Since the party convention events in South Africa--in fact, throughout southern Africa--have continued to explode. Articles in the Militant and IP have analyzed these developments. The most important point to note about these developments is the courage and determination of the African masses. Since Soweto, not only have Blacks demonstrated against the white minority regime, but so have Coloureds and Asians. It is clear that even the great government repression hasn't slowed the protests.

We have also seen the central role played by the student movement in the struggle against apartheid. Students initiated the first as well as the recent struggles against the regime. They also have taken the lead in demanding the freedom of the over 1,000 political prisoners arrested by the South African government. It was the reactions by students that finally awakened the powerful African working class to enter the protests.

Another point to note about these events in southern Africa is the policy of Washington. Kissinger is presently on a national and international campaign to win approval for American imperialism's so-called "new" policies toward southern Africa. In particular, Kissinger is attempting to win support for his policy from American Blacks. He recently spoke at the National Urban League convention in Boston and plans to speak before other Black conferences to push his African policy. He has also met with Black leaders, for example, Jesse Jackson, head of Operation PUSH. So far many of the Black leaders have been taken in by Kissinger's double-talk and given tentative support to the government's imperialist policies in southern Africa. The fact is, Washington has no intention of ending its support for white rule in South Africa because of its huge economic and political interests in the region. The recent shift in tactics only reflects the new political situation in southern Africa after imperialism's setback in Angola. Kissinger has to attempt to win approval from the American people, particularly among Blacks, to actively carry out his "new" policy in southern Africa.

In this context, it is important for our candidates, the Militant and the YSA to go on a national campaign to expose the fraudulent character of Washington's African strategy.

As the events in southern Africa continue to unfold, it becomes more and more clear that it is necessary to organize local and national activities against U.S. involvement in southern Africa and to express the American people's solidarity with the African masses fighting for majority rule. The potential for building a large and effective movement against the U.S. on this issue is indicated by the support shown a few years ago when the African liberation day demonstrations were being organized and by the success of the activities organized soon after Soweto occurred in June. It is important to involve and activate students and working people around this issue. We should seek to involve African students, Black student unions, student gov-

South Africa/2

ernments, NAACP, PUSH, SCLC, unions, women's organizations, Chicano and Puerto Rican groups, and others in united front coalitions against U.S. complicity with South African racism and in support of South African political prisoners.

The YSA especially can play a leading role in this work. Representing militant students in this country, the YSA has a natural link with their African brothers and sisters in southern Africa. The power of the international student movement can play a major role in aiding their comrades in South Africa. The YSA National Office plans to make one of its central activities over the fall South African defense work. The YSA Teams and national speakers will have a major talk on this subject.

The National Student Coalition Against Racism (NSCAR) also plans to make South African work a big activity over the fall leading up to its third national conference. Like the YSA, NSCAR intends to make support to South African Blacks a theme of talks this fall. They plan to link the struggle in Boston to that in South Africa. A common demand that will likely be raised by NSCAR activists is: "No to Racism in Boston and South Africa!"

Our central demands should focus on the theme of ending U.S. complicity with the racist South African regime and demanding the release of the hundreds of South African political prisoners. Such demands as: "No to U.S. trade to South Africa"; "End U.S. ties to South Africa"; "End U.S. political, economic and military support to South Africa"; "All U.S. Interests Out of South Africa"; and so on, can be raised. Also we should raise the slogan: "Free all South African Political Prisoners" as a central demand. Picket lines, for example, should not only occur at South African Consulates, but primarily outside of U.S. Federal buildings. On college campuses demands can be raised against University complicity with U.S. corporations operating in South Africa.

To aid comrades doing South Africa defense work a selected bibliography on southern Africa is attached. Comrades should also follow the ongoing coverage that will appear in the Militant and IP. Pathfinder Press will be issuing a new pamphlet on southern Africa soon based on the talk given by Tony Thomas at the party convention, reprinted in the September 17 Militant.

NSCAR is also planning to issue a special convention building brochure focused on South Africa that links the struggle in Boston to South Africa.

Regular reports should be sent to the National Office.

A Selected Bibliography on Southern Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

From Intercontinental Press:

- Reveal White House 'Tilt' Toward South Africa
by Peter Green Oct 28 '74 p. 1391
- Kissinger's 'Tar Baby'
by Ernest Harsch Nov 3 '75 1504
- BOSS: South Africa's Secret Police
by Ernest Harsch Nov 17 '75 1596
- Trial of Black Nationalists Begins
by Ernest Harsch Feb 23 '76 250
- Pretoria and Washington--Allies Against Africa
by Ernest Harsch
- Part I: How the White House Arms SA Mar 8 " 348
- II: South Africa: NATO's
Secret Partner Mar 15 " 404
- III: The Gendarme of Southern
Africa Mar 29 " 501
- Israel-South Africa--The Apartheid Axis
by David Frankel Apr 26 " 674
- Growing Ferment Against Apartheid Regime
by Ernest Harsch May 17 " 790
- 100 Atom Bombs for South Africa Jun 7 " 899
- Washington's Stake in Apartheid
by Ernest Harsch Jun 29 " 994
- Black Uprisings Shake South Africa
by Tony Thomas Jun 29 " 996
- [news articles from July onward]

Books & Articles:

- On the South African Theses
by Leon Trotsky
[in The Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1934-35, p. 248]

SOUTHERN AFRICA, General

From Intercontinental Press

- Imperialists Assess Impact of Setback in Angola
by Ernest Harsch Mar 8 '76 340
- Kissinger's New Policy in Southern Africa
by David Frankel May 10 '76 756
- The Militant
Southern Africa--Freedom Struggle on the Rise
by Tony Thomas Sep 17 '76 p.24

Pamphlets:

- The U.S. Role in Southern Africa
by Malik Miah. Pathfinder Press, 1973

ANGOLA

- Behind the MPLA's 'Socialist' Mask
by Ernest Harsch Militant Aug 27 '76 p. 15
- Angola: The Hidden History of Washington's War
by Ernest Harsch & Tony Thomas
Pathfinder: 1976