

~~APARTHEID~~ ~~NO MORE~~



For a more concrete
involvement
see
a workbook, a course...
a contest p.4

Special Edition Info-fneeq October 1985

TO BE YOUNG IN SOUTH AFRICA

1985: International Youth Year; or to be more accurate - the year of the "no future generation". In Quebec, in Canada and in many countries around the world, young people are paying the price of the economic crisis.

In South Africa, the situation is different; it is not only the economic crisis which is responsible for the dead-end in which many young people have found themselves for many years. From birth the colour of their skin determines the rights that they will have and the kind of life that they will live. Thus many of them will be refused: a suitable education, appropriate health care, autonomous work and even the right to freely circulate in their own country or in their own city. They live under the regime of Apartheid.

The white population makes up 15% of the total population.



To maintain its privileges and to increase its wealth, it has subjugated the black population by

creating a regime which separates the population by colour: the Apartheid system.

APARTHEID

Apartheid means separation. Institutionalized in 1948, this regime pushes the majority of the population (80%) onto the poorest 13% of the land. The South African government has not only created "Bantustans", poor territories reserved for Blacks, but has even given "independence" to four of the ten lands thus created. Although no country has recognized this

artificial status and thus, there has been no loss of rights at the international level, by creating these artificial lands the South African government has taken all rights away from many inhabitants. When working in South Africa, they are considered foreign workers. Hundreds of other laws establish the separation of Blacks from Whites, including the "pass

laws", which force Blacks to carry a 90 page pass-book containing a photo, finger-prints, address, name of employer, etc.

Inequality is sanctioned in all domains: employment, health care, education, etc. The whole black population is deprived of rights whether they are male, female or young people.

Health Care

The average life span of Blacks is 20 years less than that of Whites. The following table clearly illustrates the distortion in the amount of health care provided to each population (1):

In South Africa, everyone is "equal", but some are more "equal" than others:

1.) To Be Young in South Africa, dossier published by CIDMAA and FNEEQ.

Doctor patient ratio (1982)

Whites	1:30
Indians	1:730
Coloured	1:12,000
Blacks	1:90,000

Ratio of Hospital Beds/population (1981)

Whites	1:61.3
Asians	1:504.8
Coloured	1:346.1
Blacks	1:337.4

Monthly revenue by sector

	Whites	Blacks
Mining	\$1,222	\$251
Manufacturing	\$1,429	\$362
Construction	\$1,493	\$297
Commerce	\$1,174	\$242

Deaths on the job

Whites	Blacks
1,949	21,356

Employment Revenue

Black workers make up the majority of the labour force and almost all non-skilled workers are black (96%). South African and foreign companies, as well as the white farmers, need the black population to maintain their profits.

To illustrate this, we have included the following chart which shows the difference between the earnings of the black and white labour forces.

Workers have created union organizations which have for years fought for decent working conditions and against apartheid. Some big union federations are associated with student groups in this fight for equality.

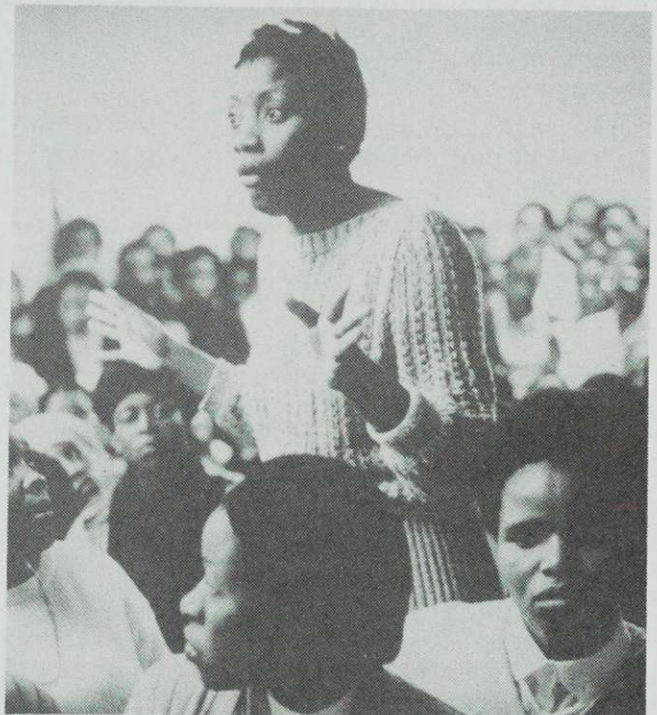
Women's Issues

More than half of the female labour force work in private homes as domestic workers. Other women workers are employed in the textile, food and clothing industries.

Doubly discriminated against as women and as Blacks, these women face living conditions that are even worse than those of black men. On average, they earn half of what black male workers earn and their average salary is 8% of the average for white workers.

In the past few years, many women's groups have been formed. And already by the beginning of the 50's, they had founded the FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN. On the 9th of August, 1956, 20,000 women refused to carry their pass card, at the instigation of the Federation. Since that time, August 9 is Women's Day.

With their backs to the wall because of the horrendous living conditions, the women have to intervene on all fronts: healthcare, contraception, education, housing, etc.



Young People at School

To confine Blacks to their inferior situation and to continue to have a cheap pool of labour, two systems of education have been necessary. Thus, no specialized or professional training is available to Blacks from the State. They are especially taught mechanics, woodworking, cooking, and religion. Families must pay considerable educational fees, which do not exist for white children.

Many students finish primary school without knowing how to read or write. Other children never even get to school, since in some areas schools do not even exist because of a lack of financing.

Young people are constantly demanding changes in the educational system. Trained for only subordinate, poorly-paid jobs, young Blacks also have to face a situation where 50% of them will be unemployed.

Grouped in many different



The colour determines the quality of teaching.

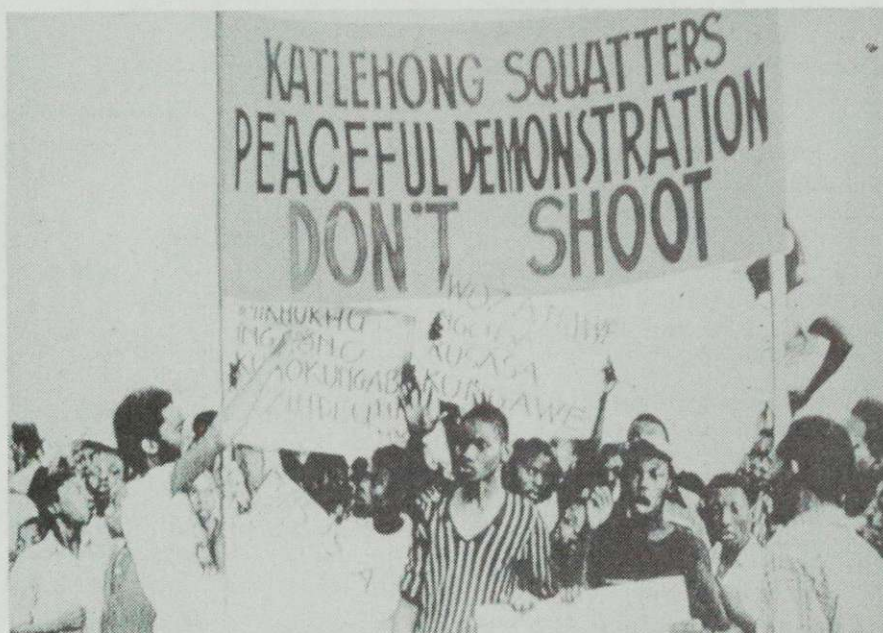
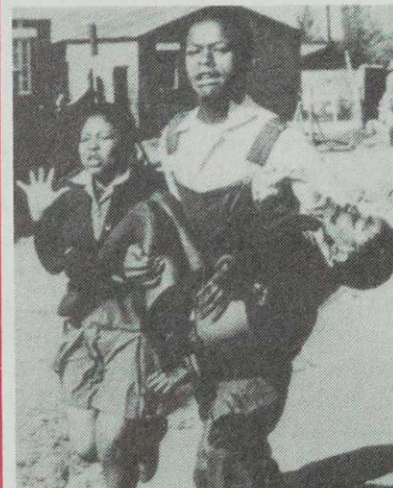
organizations, the student movement is active in the fight for equal rights. The strongest and most active organizations are found at the secondary school level. But the repression is also great as a consequence: arrest, imprisonment and even execution, as in the case of student leader Steve Biko a few years ago.

Up Against Repression

Political and union work is often interrupted by arrest or even death. More than 400 union men and women have been put in jail in the last three years and this year alone, hundreds of people have been killed by the police. The declaration of the state of emergency last July 7, only made the situation worse.

Numerous laws allow for the arrest of political prisoners who are then jailed for years; this is the case with Nelson Mandela, leader of a political organization which was declared illegal.

Violent repression is used against any demonstrations or any attempt to organize. This explains why thousands of young activists have been imprisoned or forced to go into exile in the past ten years.

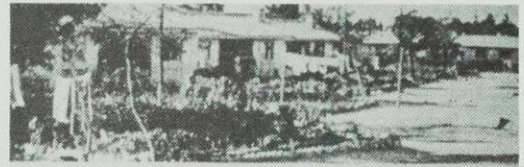


Peaceful demonstration, August 1985.

Our Presence in South Africa

But how can we change any of this? Well, more than 28 big Canadian companies are present in South Africa, among them: BATA, ALCAN, CARLING-O'KEEFE, AND DOMINION TEXTILE. And in 1983 Quebec imported merchandise worth 53 million dollars annually from South Africa. Our supposed neutrality isn't so neutral.

But changes can happen if we put on pressure to end our implicit support of the South African regime. The proof of this is that the Toronto-Dominion Bank has adopted a public policy of ceasing to make loans to South Africa. More recently, the Canadian provinces committed themselves to stop importing certain South African foodstuff.



Married quarters for black workers at the Bata estate at Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia

Bata paying blacks below poverty line

To learn and to know

A workbook, a course... a contest

Because our members work with young people, FNEEQ's Federal Council has decided to associate FNEEQ with the sensitization campaign that CIDMAA (Information and Documentation Center on Mozambique and Southern Africa) has worked out. A workbook, a course... to learn and become familiar with the situation. In order to inform students of the situation of young people in South Africa, a pedagogical workbook, conceived as the basis of a course, has been prepared for teachers. Subdivided into four sections, the themes dealt with are the political, economic and social situations and what it really means to be young in South Africa. Put together in such a way that it can be used in several different ways, this workbook is available at FNEEQ and will be sent out to any teachers who ask for it. (Call 598--2241). The CIDMAA document is only available in French but there is another cahier available in English, on request, from FNEEQ. (For either of both documents, call 598-2241). Supplementary resources are



available in French or English from CIDMAA (3738 St. Dominique, Montreal, 288--3412).

In classes where courses are given on South Africa, we invite students to prepare an assignment on the theme "To Be Young in South Africa?". The contest is open to all students and the work must be submitted by the end of November.

The winners will be selected at the beginning of December and the prize will be a trip to the United Nations in New York.

This project was designed by the Information Centre on Mozambique and Southern Africa, in collaboration with student associations and FNEEQ.

The Tour

To inform students and teachers about the situation in South Africa, South African students will be doing a tour of Quebec universities and CEGEPS. There will be an information kiosque and slide show available in the institutions visited.

The Schedule

Here is the timetable of the tour:

Monday, October 21:
Ste. Hyacinthe
Tuesday, October 22:
Sherbrooke
Wednesday, October 23:
Thetford Mines
Thursday, October 24:
Quebec
Friday, October 25:
Quebec
Monday, October 28:
Rimouski
Tuesday, October 29:
Chicoutimi/Jonquiere
Wednesday, October 30:
Alma
Friday, November 1:
Rouyn-Noranda
Monday, November 4 to
Friday, November 9:
Montreal