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July 8, 1991

TO: Labor Key Contacts
FROM: Labor Desk

**Dogs Set on Workers As COSATU "Kidnapping" Trial Postponed:
Mineworkers Leader Ramaphosa Elected ANC General Secretary**

The apartheid government in South Africa appears determined to continue with the trial of COSATU General Secretary Jay Naidoo, Deputy Secretary Sydney Mafumadi, Metalworkers General Secretary Moses Mayekiso and COSATU staffer Baba Schalk, on trumped-up "kidnapping" charges [see Labor Desk Action Alert, June 24].

Last week the government announced it would postpone the trial until October. But on July 3 the South African Ambassador to the United States, Harry Schwarz, defended the prosecution during a meeting with Association of Flight Attendants President Dee Maki at the embassy in Washington, and said the trial would continue.

Meanwhile, workers peacefully protesting outside the courthouse have been met with an increasingly brutal police action. Last week some 150 workers were arrested outside the Magistrates Court in Johannesburg, and 16 were bitten by police dogs. On July 4, COSATU staged a nationwide series of demonstrations and one-day strikes to protest both the trial and the behavior of the police.

The continuing judicial harassment of the COSATU leaders, and the violent attacks on workers are only the most recent incidents in the ongoing government campaign to destabilize and weaken organized labor and the democratic movement in South Africa as a whole.

Demand that the regime keep its HANDS OFF LABOR IN SOUTH AFRICA!

Send protest faxes to South African Ambassador Schwarz at the number below.

The leading role of labor in the liberation struggle was reflected in the overwhelming election of National Union of Mineworkers General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa to the position of General Secretary of the African National Congress. The action came last week, during the ANC's first national Congress in over 30 years inside the country. Ramaphosa won a reputation as a tough negotiator and efficient administrator during his tenure at NUM, and he is expected to play a leading role the restructuring of the movement from an underground organization into a mass political party, and in negotiations with the apartheid government over a new constitution.

Congratulatory messages should be sent to Ramaphosa at:

The National Union of Mineworkers
4th Floor, National Acceptance House, Corner Rissik and Anderson Sts.
Johannesburg, South Africa 2001
FAX: (011-27-11) 836-6051

Protests about the COSATU trial should be faxed to South African Ambassador Harry Schwarz: (202) 456-2461. Please mail a copy of your fax to the labor desk.

Also enclosed is a copy of a new Labor Desk resource, Nelson Mandela Speaks To Workers About The Struggle For Freedom In South Africa, which contains ANC President Nelson Mandela's speech to the National Union of Mineworkers 1991 convention. Additional copies are available from The Africa Fund.

STATEMENT OF THE COSATU CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
30 JUNE, 1991

The COSATU Central Executive Committee meeting of Saturday 29th June discussed the trial of COSATU leaders Jay Naidoo, Sydney Mafumadi, Moses Mayekiso and Baba Schalk. We strongly condemn the action of the government in proceeding with this political persecution of our leadership. The CEC calls for the resignation of the Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee, for his failure to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the continuing attacks on COSATU, its affiliates and its members.

The CEC believes that the trial is a politically-motivated attack on COSATU to hide the fact that the police and other arms of the state are continuing to carry out surveillance and attacks on COSATU...Today's revelations by self-confessed CCB [death squad] agent Dave Verster that he was instructed to infiltrate COSATU and monitor Jay Naidoo are the latest in a line of revelations revealing an orchestrated campaign of terror against COSATU and its leaders by state agencies.

The CEC has decided to embark on a national day of protest on Thursday July 4 to protest against the political trial of our leaders and the failure of the state to act against criminal elements within their own ranks who have been engaging in acts of violence and terror against workers, our trade unions and their leaders.

The demonstrations on Thursday will include demonstrations and stoppages...in industrial areas, the suspension on Thursday of negotiations with employers, the attendance en masse by COSATU leaders at the trial, and other forms of protest in different parts of the country. We will also be requesting the African National Congress to raise the question of the trial at its National Conference.

The COSATU CEC is requesting all trade unions to raise the issue of the trial with employers and employer associations as strongly as possible. Furthermore we are calling on our allies internationally to intensify their campaign against the COSATU trial and all political trials.



COSATU

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PRESS STATEMENT 4/7/91

HARASSMENT OF WORKERS AT COSATU TRIAL

Elements within the security forces appear to be determined to discourage workers from attending the trial of COSATU leaders by systematically harassing and intimidating workers inside and outside court.

Since the case began, workers have been prevented from entering the premises of the Magistrates Courts because the court was "full", ordered to leave the premises, refused entry to the court itself, and been subjected to rude and abusive behaviour by court officials.

The police have also adopted a high-handed and provocative posture to those attending court, despite the remarkable discipline and patience of workers attending the trial. Furthermore the authorities have been inconsistent in their treatment of COSATU supporters. On the first day of the trial, when Father Huddleston attended court, and the world's TV cameras were watching, workers were allowed to demonstrate unmolested.

On subsequent days the police became increasingly aggressive, dispersing workers gathered outside court, confiscating their posters, and even threatening to disperse those inside the building. This aggressive posture came to a head on Tuesday this week, when police arrested 100 workers gathered outside court. Five

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workers were bitten by police dogs, some seriously, and one worker whose arm was in a plaster cast was manhandled so badly that he fears that his arm has been rebroken.

Today this pattern was repeated when police arrested about fifty workers outside court. When workers went to John Vorster Square to demand the release of those who had been arrested, the traffic police brutally attacked workers with dogs. About 11 workers were bitten, a number of them seriously, and had to be taken to hospital. One woman laid a charge of theft against the traffic police for taking her property, including her purse.

COSATU has instructed its lawyers to lay charges for a number of these actions listed above. We are concerned that, cumulatively, the effect of the intimidatory actions which have been employed, is to make what is supposed to be an open trial into a closed trial.

The attempt to create the impression that COSATU leaders on trial don't have support from the membership will fail. Today's national day of protest demonstrates that our members realise that it is not a few individuals who are on trial, but the entire trade union movement.

Workers have sacrificed to attend the trial. Many have taken time off work. Others have travelled long distances. The very least the authorities can do is to allow our members to attend the trial, and demonstrate their support, in a dignified and peaceful way.