



# INTERNATIONAL MOLDERS AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION LOCAL 164



IGNACIO DE LA FUENTE  
BUSINESS MANAGER &  
CORRESPONDING REPRESENTATIVE

Thozamile Botha  
South African Congress of Trade Unions  
P.O. Box 35251  
Lusaka  
Zambia

October 12, 1986

Dear Brother Botha,

I, myself, and our members have very good memories of your stay in the Bay Area of San Francisco a year ago, and particularly the talk you gave outside one of our foundries to the workers at lunchtime. I sent some pictures of that meeting to you, which was delivered by Mr. De La Fuente, the Business Manager of our local union, to the SACTU delegation to the Dublin Conference last spring.

I am enclosing with this letter a document which I believe that you will find interesting - an evaluation of the work of the African American Labor Center in South Africa in the recent period, written for the AALC by a well-known U.S. labor arbitrator.

With the pictures that I sent you care of Mr. De La Fuente, I also sent a letter which I hope that you received. In the letter I tried to raise the question of the activities of the AFL-CIO International Department, and the AALC. Specifically, an attempt is being made to convince U.S. trade unionists: 1) that the Black trade union movement in South Africa is distinct from the liberation movement, and does not pursue the same (especially political) goals, and 2) that CUSA or organizations generally other than COSATU (and of course SACTU) are the legitimate representatives of the Black trade union movement of South Africa. The purpose of this is clearly to hinder the development of solidarity on the part of the U.S. labor movement towards the ANC. I think that the AALC document provides some further evidence of this.

One possible response to this problem would be the organization of a joint U.S. tour by representatives of COSATU, SACTU and the ANC, reflecting the unity outlined in the joint communique. Particularly if such a tour were organized with the sponsorship of certain U.S. international unions and officials, the tour participants might be able to speak to broad groups of U.S. trade unionists. Beyond the solidarity developed in the U.S., such a tour might also serve to impede the free operation of the AALC in South Africa. Please let me know your opinion about this proposal. Otherwise, I wish you and SACTU all possible success in your efforts, which seem to be bearing great fruit now in South Africa.

For a Free South Africa!

David Bacon, Organizer, Molders Union Local #16  
Chairperson, Labor Committee of the Bay  
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