

PHILLIPS WORKERS STRIKE BACK

a threat to profits

During the latter part of '86, workers at S.A. Phillips in Newlands, Johannesburg, organised themselves into a Workers Union (MAWU), a COSATU affiliate. Realising that strong worker organisation would pose a threat to their profits, S.A. Phillips soon tried to move against the union.



shop steward retrenched

In January '87, management notified a MAWU shop steward that he would be retrenched. The shop steward was prevented from entering the company premises the following day. Management then sat back to watch the reaction of the rest of the workforce. **The workers were not intimidated: they immediately downed tools and forced management to reinstate the shop steward.**

workers' demand. They gave the supervisor a warning instead. Workers rejected this and threatened to go on strike if the supervisor set foot on company premises. Management challenged the workforce by allowing the supervisor back on the premises.



tools down

All MAWU members downed tools on Thursday 14/5/87, with management refusing to listen to the workers' proposal of independent arbitration.

multinationals in general, and Phillips in particular. They are united and prepared to fight to advance and defend their interests.

assault continues

In May '87, the same shop steward was beaten up by a supervisor for using the telephone without permission to arrange a union meeting. Workers went on strike and demanded that the supervisor be dismissed.

The strike continues.

worker power

An inquiry was held, with management refusing to give in to the

The workers of S.A. Phillips have demonstrated that they are not divided by the sweet-talk of

S.A. Phillips is owned by the Dutch multinational 'Phillips'. The company works hard to maintain and promote a very liberal image. Within this liberal coating lies cold and calculated exploitative interests, where basic democratic rights and economic needs of workers are not met with. Phillips workers are paid starvation wages. It is also not very widely known that Phillips supplies a large part of the electronic systems used in the SADF.

WESTBURY ERUPTS

On Saturday 7 March this year, an inter-high school sports meeting held at Union Stadium, Westbury, Johannesburg, was violently disrupted by police.

According to an eyewitness, an argument had taken place between an off-duty policeman and a spectator. The policeman had shot the spectator, fatally wounding him. The crowd then started assaulting the policeman.

Police reinforcements were called in. They surrounded the stadium and fired teargas into the crowd. As people tried to leave the stadium, the police fired live ammunition into the defenceless crowd. Many people were wounded, two children fatally.

Youths went on the rampage, stoning cars and buses. A number of youths were detained when they went to Coronation Hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds.

We condemn the callous, brutal actions of the police. All over the country, people are realising that they cannot be passive recipients of state brutality, and that we have to defend ourselves against these atrocities.