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MARIEVALE WORKERS REINSTATED

IN A SIGNIFICANT and bold judgement the Industrial Court ordered Gencor's Marievale Gold Mine to reinstate the workers they dismissed in the legal strike of September.

The order takes effect on November 1.

The workers have to be reinstated on terms and conditions which are not less favourable than those which existed before they were dismissed.

The workers have been given twenty-one days to report for duty. The Industrial Court has also requested that the names of the reinstated workers be handed to it within thirty days.

The judgement was met with jubilation by Marievale workers. As the telexed message was read out, chants of *Amandla!* and *Qina!* punctuated every point.

"When do we go back?", asked one worker to the others.

"Now! Now!" shouted the rest together.

The workers started singing praises to the union. Lekton House, the union's head office, stopped for a few minutes as everybody joined in the singing.

Comrade Antonio Balate explained how he felt:

"I am very happy. We are all

happy. When the NUM says it is going to do something, then it does it. This is our union. It will take us to many victories."

"The mineworkers lead the way. We are no push-over and management must begin to realise this. We will continue to fight to improve our conditions of work," he added.

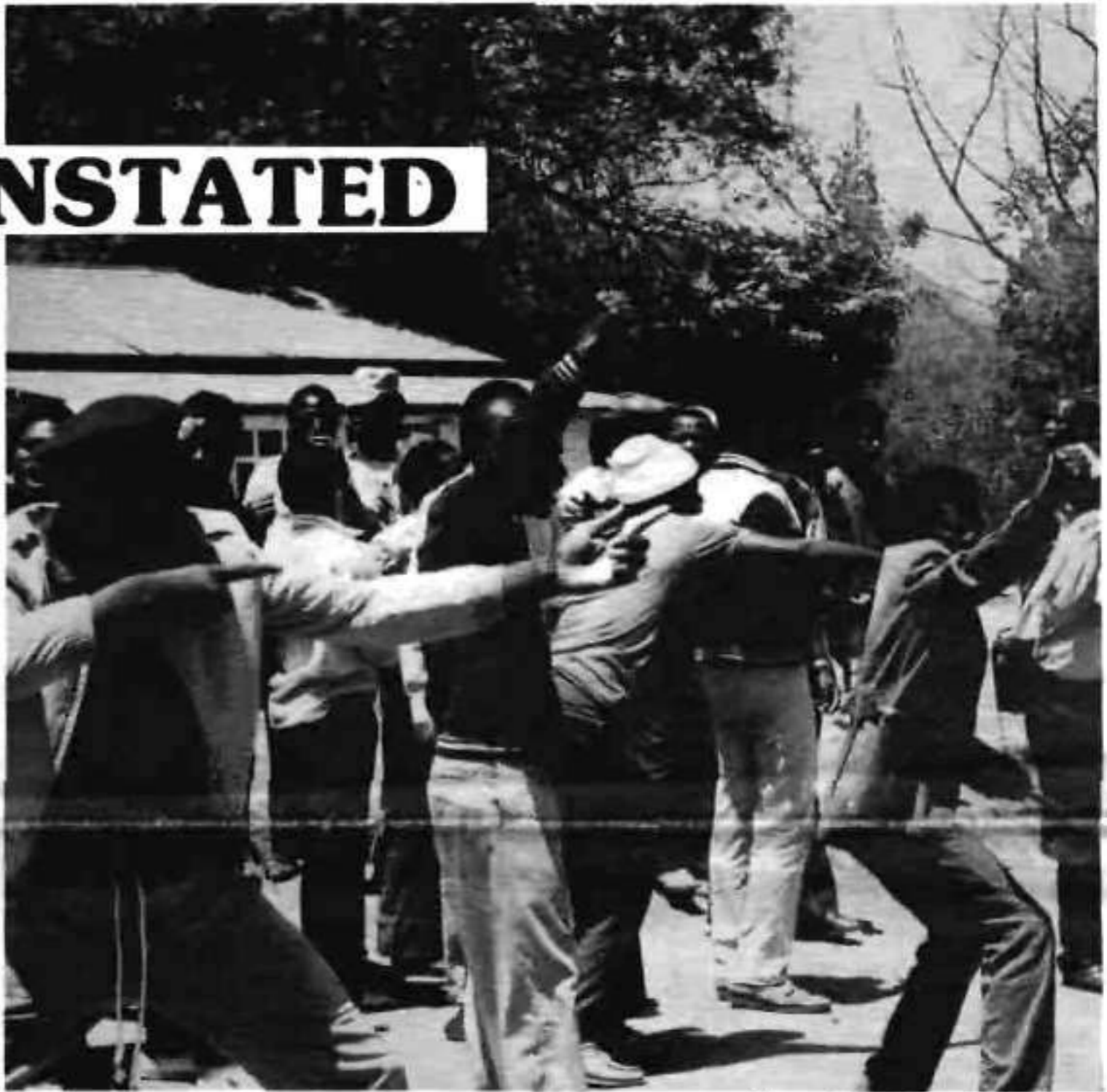
Commenting on the judgement, a union official said that it would have major implications for the trade union movement. He added that two things had become clear from the judgement.

"It means that the representative of the workers, in this case NUM, is entitled to bring an application on their behalf and that legally striking workers, as in the case of Marievale, ought not to be dismissed."

He added further that the union's confidence in the Industrial Court had been restored.

"It would ensure that legally striking workers like Marievale would have some protection and it would encourage the use of the industrial conciliation machinery," he said.

He added that the union's Central Committee is waiting for the reasons of the Industrial Court, so as to discuss the implications of the judgement.



Victory dance of reinstated workers.

COMMENT COMMENT COMMENT COMMENT

MORE than three months have passed since the declaration of the State of Emergency on July 20. The intention was to "normalise" relations in the country, after more than a year of spiralling violence, school boycotts and township resistance.

More than 5 200 people have been detained under the emergency regulations. Currently, there are 1 209 people held. Over 650 people have died in the unrest this year.

Another eight magisterial districts in the Western Cape were added to the emergency list. Meetings of 94 organisations have been totally banned in the Cape.

But there seems no end to the unrest.

The reasons are clear for all to see. The Botha regime, with its apartheid policies, will not solve the economic and political crisis, one of the worst this country has seen. The mismanagement of the economy and the sham reforms will only continue to worsen the situation.

The State of Emergency is no remedy for the crisis. The military occupation of the townships will not restore "order". Nor will the banning of organisations be the solution. Only major economic and political changes in South Africa, which meets the aspirations of the oppressed and exploited working people, will end the current wave of unrest.

At our Special Congress in August, in Welkom, a resolution was passed, unanimously, demanding that the government lift the State of Emergency. They have stubbornly decided to ignore our demand. We wish to remind the government that the mineworkers have long and lasting memories.

No repatriation

President Botha's threats earlier this year that, because of the strong disinvest-

ment campaign, he will repatriate migrant workers back to the "homelands" and neighbouring states. This threat will not go unchallenged by the National Union of Mineworkers if the government intends pursuing this policy.

The Special Congress resolved to vigorously resist this policy. If necessary, a national strike of the mining industry will be called. After our resolution it seems that the government has backed down.

One country — one federation

The formation of the SUPER FEDERATION, on November 30 in Durban, is an important milestone in the unity of the trade union movement. With more than half a million workers under its banner, the rest of the unorganised workers must be unionised. An important task of the federation will be to defend the trade union gains which have been bitterly fought for over the last decade. But its responsibility is also wider. It has to assist in the fight for the FREEDOM of the oppressed and exploited workers.

Marievale Victory

The order of the Industrial Court to reinstate Marievale workers shows clearly that Gencor was unfair in dismissing them. Mine managements must realise that dismissing workers does not solve their industrial relations problems. That they will not destroy the union in the mining industry should be clear now by now. Mine unionisation has come of age. The National Union of Mineworkers represents the majority of mineworkers. We want serious negotiations on the removal of mining apartheid, starvation wages and improved health and safety.

The wage dispute with Gencor, Gold Fields and Anglovaal remains unresolved. Our members are determined to press their claims until total victory!