

MAY DAY 1985

FIRST MAY 1886

RISE NALANDE

PHANSI-IZIMPIMPI & ABAQASHI

WHO AMONG THE OPPRESSED WORKERS CAN FAIL TO IMAGINE THIS DAY?
WHO AMONG THE WORKERS WHO ARE FACED WITH RETRENCHMENT AND HUNGER
CAN FAIL TO KNOW?

THIS DAY IS THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY,
THE STORY ROLLS UP OUT OF THE OCEAN,
OVER THE MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS,
FROM AMERICA TO NEW YORK - FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO CHICAGO
AND NOW IN AFRICA.

THE CRY WAS FOR AN END OF EXPLOITATION,
END TO SLAVE WAGE AND CAPITALISM,
END TO LONG HOURS AND ABUSING OF YOUNG CHILDREN,
A CRY WAS EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK, EIGHT HOURS FOR REST, EIGHT HOURS
FOR WHAT THEY WILL.

TODAY 1ST MAY 1985 IN SOUTH AFRICA
MILLIONS OF WORKERS ARE OUT OF EMPLOYMENT,
MILLIONS OF WORKERS ARE FACING RETRENCHMENT,
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE DYING OF HUNGER.

THIS IS THE DAY THAT WORKERS MUST RE-ORGANIZE THEMSELVES,
THIS IS THE DAY FOR UNIFICATION OF THE WORKING CLASS, FROM
UNSKILLED TO ARTISAN,
THIS IS THE DAY THAT WORKER ORGANISATIONS MUST UNITE AND PASS
THE RESOLUTION:

"THAT FROM THIS DATE, MAY 1ST 1985, THERE WILL BE NO FOSATU
NOR CCAMUSA - NO GUM NOR FOOD AND CANNING - NO SAAMU
NOR CUSA.

ALL WORKER ORGANISATION MUST COME TOGETHER AS ONE AND FIGHT THE BOSSES."

THE UNDERPRIVILEGED, THE UNEMPLOYED, THE OPPRESSED, THOSE LANGUISHING
IN JAILS AND IN EXILE, WE WANT TO SEE THEM WITH FACES
CHERISHED WITH JOY.

I SALUTE THIS DAY OF THE WORKERS!