



BATH ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
IS NOW
DUE

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85 High St., Weston, Bath



BOYCOTT APARTHEID 89



Delegates at the AAM's AGM in November passed a motion resolving "to declare 1989 'Boycott Apartheid 89' which should be a priority campaign of the Movement" and "that an essential part of the campaign will be to build mass support for sanctions." This campaign is just about to get under way and, if all goes according to plan, it should turn out to be one of the largest campaigns in the history of the Movement.

The campaign is to be launched on Monday, Feb. 20th with media-oriented activities throughout the country. Near the beginning of the campaign a series of 'Regional Mobilisation Conferences' will be held in order to brief AAM members, trade unionists, religious organisers, etc. on

the aims of the campaign and to provide a forum for discussing regional Campaign plans. The Conference for the South West region is being held in Taunton on Saturday, Feb. 18th from 11am to 4pm. The Committee will be writing to trade unions and other organisations in and around Bath to urge them to send representatives to this conference. We also hope that as many of our members as

possible will be able to attend. One of the major objectives of the campaign will be to shift the perception of the consumer boycott. Up to now, the boycott has tended to be seen as an act of protest against an unjust system. The aim of this campaign is to bring home the fact that the boycott is much more than that. South Africa has massive international debts which it is finding increasingly difficult

to service. Fruit and vegetable exports contribute some £100,000,000 annually to South Africa's economy. Other exports (coal, gold, tourism, etc.) are equally vital to the continued existence of the apartheid regime. The consumer boycott is a very effective way of helping to bring a swift end to the apartheid system - a system which exists on cruelty, repression and torture. The 'tank' logo of Boycott Apartheid 89 makes this link between the boycott and the ending of oppression.

One of the features of the campaign will be the 'Boycott Bandwagon', a converted bus which will tour the country from March onwards and visit every local AA group.

Anti-Apartheid Meeting

The next meeting of Bath AAM will be on Monday, February 13th at 7:30 in Century House, Pierrepont St., Bath. The meeting will be led by Gerard Onasta-Nilson, field officer of the AAM, who will give a briefing on the Boycott Apartheid 89 campaign and lead a workshop on picketing and confrontation, using role-play and other methods. Members are strongly advised to attend this meeting.

Bath's Boycott Campaign

Members of Bath AAM who attended the January meeting agreed to participate fully in the Boycott Apartheid 89 campaign. The first item on the agenda at that time was the S.W. Mobilisation Conference, but it is now apparent that we shall also have to give some thought to the campaign's launch in order that we get media coverage of it from the start. This is one of the things to be discussed at the February meeting.

The Mobilisation conference is being hosted by the newly re-formed Taunton & West

Somerset AA group. It is hoped that this will both provide general information on the campaign and enable groups to discuss effective ways of running local campaigns. Bath AAM will be organising transport to and from Taunton for the conference - Contact Chris.

Quite by accident, Bath AAM were planning a weekend seminar on sanctions for Saturday, April 22nd following a public meeting on the Friday with Chris Patten and a member of the AAM. This is

continued col. 1 overleaf

A Year of Boycott Activities

The National Committee of the AAM has approved the following initial calendar of events throughout the Boycott Apartheid 89 campaign:

- February 20th Campaign launch
- March 18th 'Go for Cape' - CAPE Action Day linked to Sharpeville Day and aimed primarily at wholesalers
- April 22nd A picket outside each of the 317 TESCO stores in the country
- May 6 SHELL day of action
- June 24th Day of action on OUTSPAN
- July 29th Boycott Festival. Exhibition, rally and concert in the Great Hall of Alexandra Palace
- September Focus on TOURISM: letter writing campaign and pickets of travel agents
- December Action on GOLD with particular focus on Ratners (which also owns Zales and H.Samuel) and a possible day of action

In addition, there will be year-long events including a song competition, a poster competition aimed at schools and an 'Anti-Apartheid Greengrocer of the Year' competition.

Bath Campaign *cont.*

being organised with Bath Links with Nicaragua and it will now be integrated into the Boycott Apartheid 89 campaign. We hope to have the Boycott Bandwagon for that weekend or, failing that, sometime during the Bath Festival.

We hope to significantly increase our picketing activities during the campaign. It was suggested that we plan an activity for every Saturday (eg. Sainsbury's picket every 1st Saturday in the month, stall every 2nd, etc.). At the moment, we're not sure that we can get that level of support from our members (although, in theory, with almost 200 members and under 100 hours picketing - 2 hours per week for the rest of the year - it should be possible), so we have so far planned a few events on a fortnightly basis, beginning Feb. 25th with a Sainsbury's picket. Dave is organising the rota, so contact him if you feel you can contribute 1 hour towards the hundred.

It was felt at the meeting that many of our members had little experience with picketing and would therefore feel apprehensive about doing it. To help overcome this, the February AAM meeting will be mainly a picketing workshop with role-playing sessions to simulate unfriendly encounters. Gerard, the AAM's field officer will lead this workshop and we are hoping for a large turnout. It was also felt that picketers should get together a few minutes before the event to give themselves a 'pep talk' and that they should provide feedback to AAM meetings in order to help others.

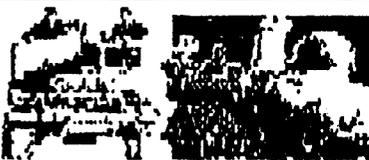
Bath AAM will write to prominent shops in the area explaining the campaign and asking for an undertaking not to stock South African goods.

Bath members opt for simpler system

The December meeting of Bath AAM was, in part, a Special General Meeting on membership where members discussed ways in which the group could manage its membership lists and service its members more efficiently. Membership proposals 1, 2 and 4 (distributed with the December newsletter) were carried unanimously. Proposal 3 was amended so that part a) of the proposal read "The fee for locally affiliated organisations should cover affiliation costs, 3 times the individual information costs and the cost of AA News." The amended proposal was carried unanimously.

The major implications of the changes are that local membership now runs from January to December. Members have until the date of the AGM (May 8th) to renew their membership. Membership rates are unaffected (waged £3.50, unwaged £1.50, youth £1.00, AA news £2.50). Members who last renewed their membership since May '88 may opt to renew 50% of these rates for 1989; those who paid since October 1988 will find that their membership has been automatically carried over to this year.

If your membership is due, the month and year on which you last renewed will be



We also hope to produce targeted leaflets which list alternatives to shops which continue to stock these goods. More elements of the campaign will be developed throughout the year and we hope that all our members will find something in which they can participate.

shown in the top right-hand corner of your address label (eg. 5/88). To renew your membership, send your name and address along with the appropriate sum to: The Membership Secretary, Bath AAM, 10 Herbert Rd., Bath BA2 3PP. Please indicate any change in your membership details (eg. if you can give active

help occasionally). The meeting reluctantly decided that it could no longer afford to give full service to national members as has been done in the past. All national members who are not also local members will now be required to pay an annual sum of £2 if they wish to continue receiving this newsletter and associated information. If this charge applies to you, it will also be indicated in the top right hand corner of the address label by the letter 'N' followed by a date (eg. N/5/88). Please follow the same procedure as for local membership renewal.

Useful Numbers

Dave	Bath 312574
Idris	Bath 315660
Jane	(day) Bath 337434
Clare	Bath 315660
Chris	Bath 62864
John	Bath 318084
Grizelda	Melksham 706427

Diary

Don't miss the **SHIRAZI CLUB Feb 89**
Meet Your Feet: multi-cultural 10-piece
Sweet Soul Sisters: 6-part acappella

- Friday February 3rd (for 7 days): 'MAPANTSULA' South African political drama made under the noses of the authorities, who thought it was just a gangster movie! 6 & 8:15pm, Watershed, Bristol
- Saturday February 4th Bath AAM stall, 11-1 behind Littlewoods
- Monday February 6th Bristol AAM AGM, 7:15, Council House Bristol
- Tuesday February 7th Bath Development Education Centre discussion group, 8pm, The Ram, Widcombe, Bath. Discussion on MOZAMBIQUE with 4 members of the Mozambique-Angola Committee
- Saturday February 11th Start of Central America Week
- Saturday February 11th Picket of South African Embassy, Trafalgar Square, to launch a letter-writing campaign against conscription. Details: 01-270-6928
- Monday February 13th Bath AAM meeting, 7:30, Century House. Picketing Workshop
- Thursday February 16th Start of 2-day Local Authorities against Apartheid Conference in Sheffield
- Saturday February 18th Regional Mobilisation Conference for Boycott Apartheid 89. 11-4, Albermarle Centre, Albermarle Rd., Taunton
- Monday February 20th Boycott Apartheid 89 Campaign Lunch
- Saturday February 25th Picket of Sainsbury's in Bath, 11-1
- Tuesday February 28th Bath AAM's 'Shebeen Club' at Moles Club with "Meet your feet" & "The Sweet Soul Sisters." £2.50 waged, £1.50 unwaged and Moles members
- Saturday March 4th South African writers Mary Benson and Gillian Slovo lead a discussion at the Watershed, Bristol, 7:30
- Sunday March 5th 34th anniversary of the foundation of SACTU
- Saturday March 11th Bath AAM stall, 11-1 behind Littlewoods
- Saturday March 11th Mandela Cyclists reunion in Bath
- Monday March 13th Bath AAM meeting, 7:30, Century House