

BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT



Dear

LONDON STEERING COMMITTEE

The recent riots have demonstrated that, as black people, we need to organise ourselves to defend our youth and to fight racism at work, at play and on the streets. There have been several attempts in the past to organise a black CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT but all have failed because of splits, personality clashes and lack of discipline and organisation.

The economic crisis has meant that black people are being hit hardest at work through redundancy, non filling of vacancies and deliberate acts of racism. The trade union movement continues to pass well-meaning resolutions but these have no effect on racism at work and in the trade union movement. It is now time for black trade unionists to step forward and organise within the trade union movement.

We have another historic task to perform. We have learnt discipline and organisation from being in the trade union movement and have a duty to lead the other sections of the black community into organising a CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. At a recent conference of black lawyers, they made plans to set up a black lawyers organisation to defend blacks and to fight for black equality. They are determined to assist us legally and to set up a CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. We have other black sections like Cultural, Educational, Medical, Political etc., which will be organised in due course. Our job as black trade unionists is to organise these sections into the CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT our people need. Our job will be difficult but as trade unionists we are accustomed to pressure.

Bill Morris, National Organiser TGWU, and I attended the Black workers Conference in Birmingham on Saturday 12th September. Apart from the Black People's Day of Action on 2nd March, I have never been inspired as much from any other event in Britain. This was a historic conference as it brought together over 100 black trade union activists, including delegations from British Leyland Longbridge and the Indian Workers Assn (GB). The conference unanimously agreed to set up a National Black Trade Unionists Organisation. At the same time a conference of black lawyers was being held in Surrey. At that conference, the top American Lawyers who built the American Civil Rights Movement and worked with Martin Luther King, explained the black American experience and gave invaluable advice on setting up a Civil Rights Movement in Britain. The American brothers and the British lawyers all agreed unanimously that black trade unionists were only people who could set up the Civil Rights Movement because of our organisational and disciplined approach. We can't let our people down.

p.t.o.

contd.....

This letter is the first stage in setting up a Steering Committee of Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement and ultimately a CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

We are setting up a London Steering Committee of the BTUSM and are asking you to attend the first meeting of this Committee. Please return the tear off slip in the enclosed stamped envelope. The date of the meeting and the agenda will be circulated when we have received the slips. Please complete the slip at once!

Yours in solidarity,

B A Grant
Area Officer, NUPE

NAME

I am/am not interested.

The best day for a meeting is

The best time for a meeting is

9.10.81

BA/BW