

NEWS & ACTION BULLETIN



COMMITTEE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
SUPPORT OF
TRADE UNION
RIGHTS

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EDITORIAL

In our last Bulletin (# 10) we reprinted a statement of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Asian Pacific Regional Organization. It speaks with real concern about the harm and suffering which would be brought on Asian workers if the Jenkins Bill should pass the U.S. Congress. It did pass the House and the Senate, but was vetoed by Reagan. This discussion is not, however, abstract because a similar bill (there are several in the hopper) might pass and be signed, or passed over Reagan's veto. Furthermore, it is already clear that whether or not such bills become law, the campaign for them will do great harm to the cause of international solidarity.

The Jenkins bill applies to 11 countries, all but Brazil are in Asia. It covers only textiles, apparel, non-rubber shoes and copper. It cuts back the volume of imports from some countries and limits the growth of imports from all. As to copper, it simply instructs the President to negotiate trade restraints with copper producing countries. Passage of the bill would eliminate 75,000 of the jobs in Brazil's shoe industry; Thailand would lose 64% of its U.S. market and 100,000 jobs. China would lose 54% of its U.S. market, Indonesia 89%, Pakistan 43%, India 26%, South Korea 33%, Taiwan 33%.

The Asian unions asserted that such protectionism would solve no problem, but simply redistribute hardship from workers of rich countries to workers of poor countries "while at the same time diverting attention away from those measures which would restore growth to the world economy." They reminded us that Asian workers are not our enemies, and we must unite. The Asian Pacific organization called for a forum on this subject matter within the ICFTU. We have seen no evidence of such a Forum either of the ICFTU or the AFL-CIO, though 7 months have

passed, so we are holding a forum in our Bulletin.

We have no choice; we must act. Competition for jobs between workers of different countries is the very opposite of international labor solidarity - and we exist to educate for, promote and organize international labor solidarity. We ask our affiliates and readers not to assume that proper thought and discussion is being given by their international unions or the AFL-CIO. If there is such a document, other than the UE position, (see below) it is being kept a deep dark secret. Get it to us; we will publish it. Again we issue a call for articles and letters on the related questions of protectionism, plant closings, multi-nationals, foreign investment and anti-labor dictators.

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BIG NEWS IN TURKEY

In a city no larger than San Francisco there were 100,000 Turkish demonstrators according to the WFTU. Most significant was the sponsor of the demonstration, TURK-IS, a labor federation which has not organized a demonstration for 16 years, and which refused to condemn the take-over by the Generals in 1980.

According to Kemal Daysal, Secretary in exile of DISK, the militant and outlawed union federation, the demonstration is proof that despite depression and State Terror the working class will not accept submission. The demonstration seems to have been timed to take place as the defense opens its case in the DISK trial, in which there are almost 1500 defendants, all of them DISK officers or activists.

