

that those people who go [into] parliament or go into the government should be those who are prepared to serve the people, not because it is a way of enriching people. And I think the ANC therefore must now position itself to tackle the problems of grassroots people. And that is why the ANC must allow the formation

of many democratic formations in this country, organs of civil society, like the civics, independent trade unions, students' organisations, teachers organisations, organisations of housewives, women, gays and everybody else, so that it is kept reminded of the need of the people on the ground.' ☆



The Chris Hani stayaways

The assassination of Chris Hani on Saturday 10 April sparked off two stayaways which were among the biggest seen in South Africa. The first took place on Wednesday the 14th. The day also saw massive marches in most

cities across the country and close to one hundred commemorative meetings.

The second stayaway took place on Monday 19 April, the day of Hani's funeral, which was attended by over 100 000 mourners.

On both days the SA LABOUR BULLETIN surveyed the same sample of 44 COSATU organised employers in the PWV region, employing some 25 000 workers. The sample included manufacturing, retail, transport and public sector employers. The survey revealed a stayaway rate of 91% on the Wednesday and 92% on Monday.

These appear to be the highest figures recorded in this area. The LABOUR BULLETIN recorded figures between 90% and 100% in last years mass action campaign, and the Labour Monitoring Group recorded 90% on 16 June, 1986.

The LABOUR BULLETIN also surveyed employers in the mining industry. Here there was a marked difference in the stayaway figures for the two days. On the Wednesday there was a negligible stayaway in the mining sector – some 20 000 participated. NUM and the Chamber of Mines agreed that where workers so decided, they could take two hours off for memorial services.

On Monday, however, employers reported a stayaway of 90 000, or 20% of the workforce employed in mines affiliated to the Chamber of Mines. All but 37 500 had made prior arrangements with management. In a number of Genmin mines this meant workers working extra shifts to make up lost production. The stayaway affected all mining houses except JCI.

The SA Chamber of Business did a national survey of its affiliates. On the Wednesday, it reported a 90 - 100% stayaway in PWV, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, and 88% in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

On the Monday, it reported a “marginally lower” stayaway: 85 – 100% in PWV, 20% in Cape Town, 70 – 90% for PE, and 88% in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. (*STAR 21 April 1993*)

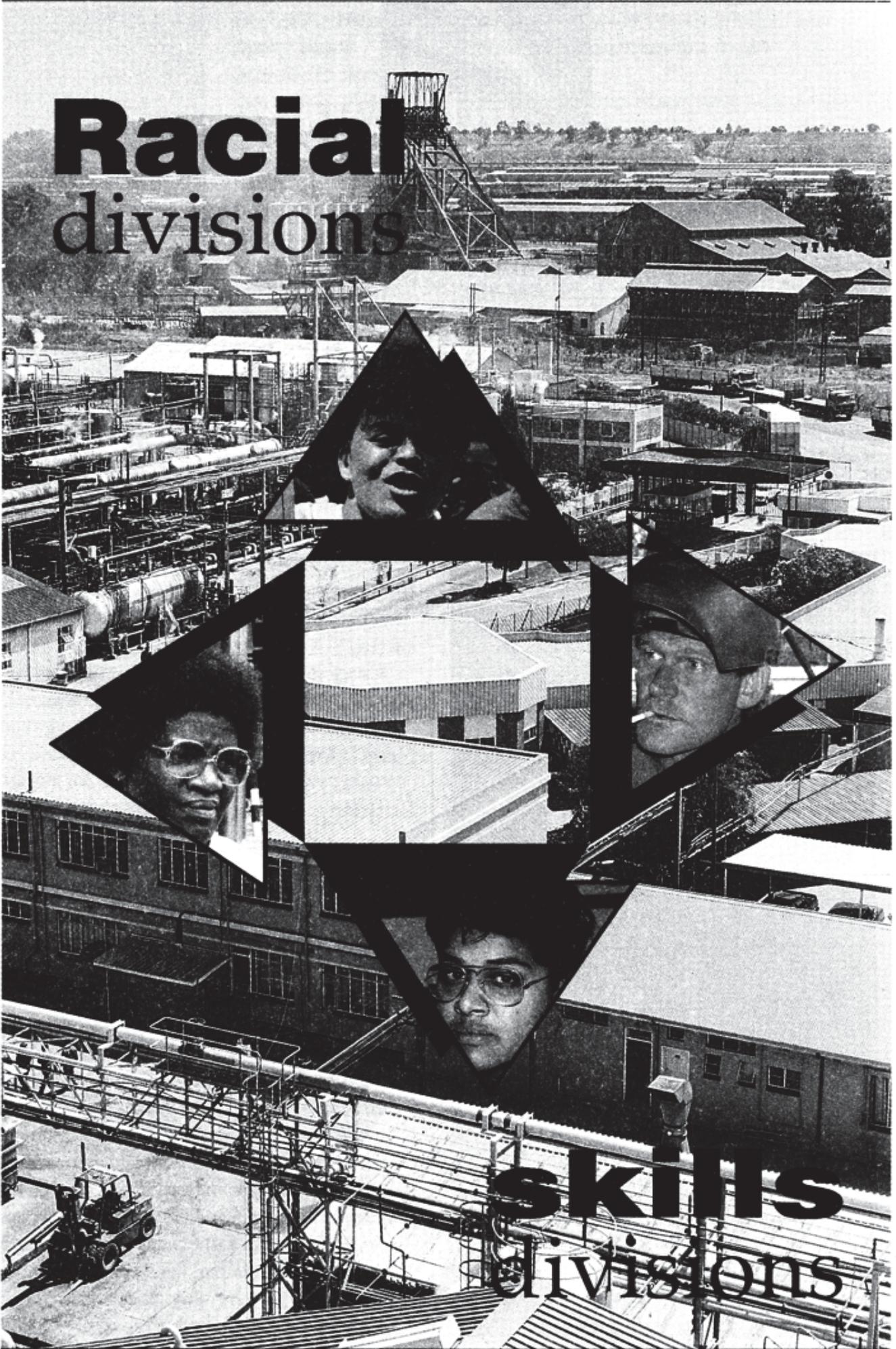
The SACOB figures taken with ours suggest that the Wednesday stayaway was among the top three stayaways ever recorded, together with the mass action stayaway last year, and the June 16 stayaway in 1986 which took place just four days after the declaration of the second State of Emergency.

The following comments can be made:

- The Wednesday stayaway was the most rapidly organised in our history. It was a response to an immediate event, rather than part of a well-prepared campaign or a commemoration of a symbolic day, as in the past. This shows not only a high level of organisation in community and unions, but a depth of national outrage.
- Some of the figures are disputed. For example, one company reported a 60% participation in the stayaway, while shopstewards in the union concerned say it was 100% on both days.
- Most employers adopted a no-work no-pay policy. Some workforces negotiated a day's leave with their employers or agreed to work in the lost time. There have been no reports of dismissals.
- Employers were unusually sympathetic. The majority expressed shock and concern at the murder of Hani. The Chamber of Mines and other businesses donated funds to cover the funeral costs. FAWU shopstewards negotiated donations of bread, rolls, chickens, coke and milk for the wake. Businessmen in the Border region sat on the podium at the commemoration meeting there. Columbus management read a message of support at the Middelburg meeting.
- The level of support for the Monday stayaway by mineworkers seems to be the highest since the Kinross stayaway and the May Day stayaway, both in 1986. This is testimony to the popularity of the SACP and Chris Hani among mineworkers.
- The Wednesday stayaway in Cape Town was the highest ever recorded in that city (SACOB figures).
- The scale of the stayaways, demonstrations and the funeral made Chris Hani's death a national event, a state event. In doing this, it revealed the ANC, backed by the tripartite alliance, as the real leaders of the nation: the future government. Chris Hani's death dramatised for the nation the passage from the old to the new. ☆

(*Fiona Dove, Sally Fincham, Snuki Zikalala, Di Stuart, Karl von Holdt*)

Racial divisions



Skills divisions