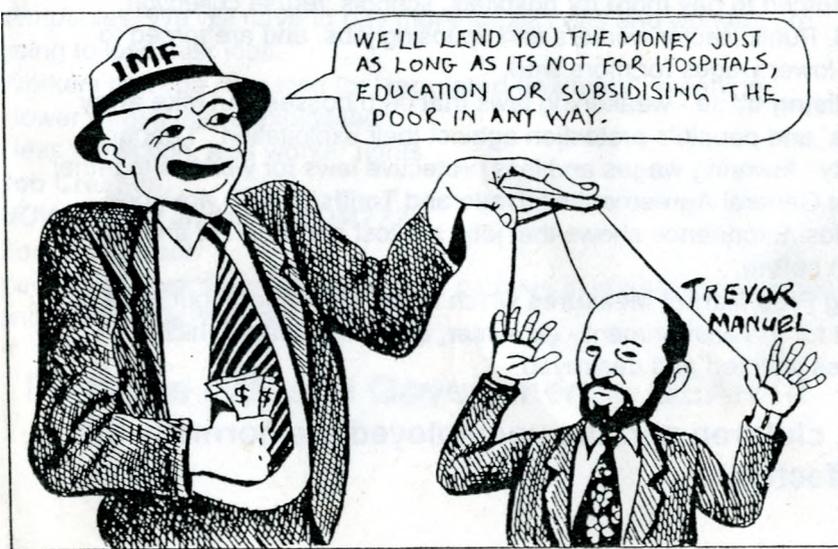


# No to IMF

The "boss" of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Michel Camdessus is visiting South Africa this week He was invited by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Trevor Manuel.

It had become clear that our government has made a major policy shift to co-operate closely with the IMF and its twin sister the World Bank. As minister Manuel stated: "We have invited him to extend the good relations that we have with the IMF." Recently it was announced that the government will undertake a new loan from the World Bank to help companies be more competitive. Already, South Africa has to pay back a loan to the IMF of over R3.5 billion which was taken out in 1993.



# Dangers of the IMF

The IMF lends money to countries and expects to be paid huge interest on the loans in return. But more than that they **influence the policies of governments** in order to make sure that countries repay them on time.

## What do we Know about the IMF and their Role in Other Countries?

Today the IMF and World Bank are the debt managers and policy controllers of the weaker and poorer countries. They have forced "structural adjustment programmes" (SAPs) onto these countries. These have created poverty and misery for most people in these countries by:

- Forcing them to pay most of their wealth back to the IMF, rich governments and foreign banks - countries become poorer and poorer and are forced to borrow more and more.
- **controlling** the finances and policies of these countries and their governments.
- **Curbing social spending** of governments - less money is spent on health, education, food, transport subsidies, pensions, etc.
- forcing governments to **PRIVATISE** their services and companies - leading to the bosses gaining more companies whilst ordinary people will be forced to pay more for hospitals, schools, refuse collection, TAXES. Public sector workers end up losing jobs, and are forced to accept lower wages for more work.
- **Liberalising trade** - weakening laws that curb bosses, but take away workers' and people's protection against their exploitation. "Labour flexibility - lowering wages and less protective laws for workers together with the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) are good examples. Experience shows that jobs are lost and workers are worse off than before.
- **Forcing Free Market Measures** which invite "investment" but have no respect for the environment - air, water, and living space which becomes polluted and destroyed.

**Women, children and the unemployed are normally the worst affected.**

# **Our Government Adopts IMF / World Bank Policies:**

During June this year, the government adopted its economic strategy called Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR). It has adopted most of the IMF's policy guidelines within this strategy. Thabo Mbeki and Trevor Manuel have also said this strategy is non-negotiable and final.

The Government strategy (GEAR) aims to:

- **Cut government spending:**  
less of our tax money will go to health, education and other social spending. Already thousands of teachers are losing their jobs and babies and people are dying in hospitals.
- **Abolish exchange controls:**  
This will devalue and weaken the Rand more. This will cause higher inflation and interest rates. We will become poorer!
- **Tariffs on imports will be reduced:**  
Imports will be cheaper. Thousands of jobs will be lost in South Africa.
- **PRIVATISATION:**  
SAA, Telkom and local municipal services are being sold to private companies. We will have to pay more for services and workers are going to lose their jobs.
- Workers must be prepared for "regulated flexibility", meaning:
  - lower wages, more exploitation.
  - less protection, less worker rights.
- **Job Creation:**  
*HOW, WHEN and by WHOM???*
- **Social contract:**  
Yet they still want workers to be their partners in implementing all these anti working class measures!!

**Fight the IMF and Government's GEAR !!!**

# **Join the Campaign Against Neoliberalism in South Africa**

All over South Africa and the world people are organising against the IMF and its neoliberal policies. We cannot just stand and watch while we are being driven to greater poverty and misery.

The government has paid lip service to a "Better Life For All" and the RDP with its millions of jobs and houses. While we are still waiting for these promises to be delivered it is implementing measures which are worsening our lives. Yet they are the people we have put into parliament to see to our needs, but have just decided to give themselves huge pay increases on top of their fat salaries.

On 15 October 1996, the "Campaign Against Neoliberalism in South Africa" (CANSA) was launched in Gauteng. A similar initiative was started in Cape Town - attended by:

- non governmental organisations, trade unions, political organisations, environmental, gender, anti-racist and anti-poverty groups, community organisations

**JOIN CANSA NOW!  
DOWN WITH NEOLIBERALISM  
DOWN WITH THE IMF  
CANCEL THIRD WORLD DEBT  
OUR STRUGGLE CONTINUES!**