cal allies of his wife, Wassila Bourguiba, long considered a political rival of Mzali.

In April, Madame Bourguiba's son-in-law, banker Tewfik Torjeman, was sentenced to six years in jail for mismanaging public funds. Another of her proteges, former Tunis Air President Mohamed Belhaj, received a five-year term. The president's son by a previous marriage, Habib Bourguiba, Jr., was also stripped of his post as presidential adviser after being publicly rebuked by his father for intervening on behalf of the accused in a corruption investigation. But rumors circulating in Tunis say the younger Bourguiba was punished for opposing his father's plans to divorce Madame Bourguiba, who has been ousted from the presidential palace in the ancient city of Carthage. Saida Sassi, described as the president's favorite niece, is now said to have taken up residence at the palace.

The recent crackdown has also hit traditional government critics. Ahmed Mestiri, leader of Tunisia's largest opposition party, the Movement of Democratic Socialists, was sentenced to four months in jail for organizing an illegal demonstration against the U.S. bombing of neighboring Libya on April 15. And at the University of Tunis, 1,500 students were detained briefly when security police moved in to quell campus protests against the air raid. Four newspapers critical of the raid were temporarily banned. The Tunis government stood alone among Arab states in refraining from public condemnation of the American attack, a position many observers say is out of step with public opinion.

The new emphasis on internal security is underscored by the appointment of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali as the new interior minister. A tough disciplinarian and graduate of the French national military college at St. Cyr, Ben Ali will also oversee religious affairs—formerly the prime minister's responsibility—and is expected to take a hard line against Islamic political activists.

The erosion of Mzali's political power and the

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BULLETIN BOARD

• The National Council of Churches and a number of American denominations are making plans to observe the **10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising** later this month.

On June 16, 1976, over 500 youths were killed by police in the black township near Johannesburg during a demonstration to protest inferior education for blacks. Demonstrations and violence erupted around the country.

This year's commemoration, part of a worldwide Christian observance, will begin with visits on June 13 and 14 to local offices of members of Congress to press for comprehensive sanctions legislation. Special services are being planned for Sunday, June 15. A national ecumenical service will be held the following day at the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

• Also in Washington on June 16, the Churches' Emergency Committee on Southern Africa and the Washington Office on Africa will conduct a **noon-time policy briefing on sanctions legislation**. Lobbying on Capitol Hill is planned for June 17. For more information contact the Churches' Committee at (212)678-0969, or the Washington Office on Africa at (202)546-7961.

• What is expected to be the largest U.S. **rally against apartheid** will be held on Saturday, June 14, 1986 in New York City. The march, organized by the N.Y. Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council, will begin at 10 a.m. with participants assembling at two locations—the United Nations and the Harlem State Building. Marchers will then walk to Central Park for a 1 p.m. rally featuring South African speakers from religious, labor and human rights organizations. For more information call (212) 673-5120.

• Each month Africa News Service receives **subscription requests from prisoners** at various U.S. penitentiaries. Although these inmates would like to receive *Africa News*, some do not have the necessary funds, and we cannot afford to give them all free subscriptions. If you are interested in giving a prisoner a gift subscription, please write us at P.O. Box 3851 Durham, NC 27702. ■

U.S./SOUTH AFRICA

IS AMERICAN SUPPORT DIVIDING SOUTH AFRICAN LABOR?

[AN] WASHINGTON, D.C.—On the evening of April 7, as a belly dancer entertained tourists one floor above them, three black South Africans dined at a downtown Washington restaurant. Two of them, Simon Conco and Peter Davidson, are closely aligned with M. Gatsha Buthelezi, the controversial Zulu leader currently engaged in power-sharing discussions with white authorities in the South African province of Natal.

The third, Nana Mahomo, is an exile who is coordinator of South Africa programs for the AFL-CIO's African-American Labor Center (AALC). Conco, chief whip in Buthelezi's KwaZulu legislative assembly, and Davidson, a leader of Buthelezi's political organization, Inkatha, listened as Mahomo described his close friendship with Buthelezi and talked about how to boost his international standing. "The Chief," Mahomo suggested, would be wise to publish an autobiography that could compete for overseas attention with Winnie Mandela's recently published account of her opposition to apartheid and of her marriage to jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela.

Conco and Davidson were in Washington to seek support for a new Inkatha-backed union federation, the United Workers Union of South Africa (UWUSA). Conco was to be named UWUSA's general secretary; Davidson would be appointed treasurer.

UWUSA's inaugural rally three weeks later was an aggressively partisan affair. A central feature of the May 1 gathering—for which 70,000 people were bused into Durban's municipal stadium—was a mock funeral. Coffins bearing the names of rival unions and labor officials were paraded by the Inkatha leadership, who proclaimed the death of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), a non-racial federation that became the country's largest labor grouping when it was established last November.

With a dues-paying membership of some 650,000 workers, COSATU dwarfs older federations. [The Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA), with about 150,000 members, and the smaller Azanian Congress of Trade Unions (AZACTU), are black consciousness-oriented groupings that refuse to accept the non-racial plank of the unity agreement that resulted in COSATU's formation.]

UWUSA was established to oppose sanctions and support free enterprise, Buthelezi declared at the Durban rally. He accused COSATU of working to destroy the country's economy. COSATU has taken a strong political stand—calling for foreign sanctions, espousing sympathy for the outlawed ANC, and criticizing Buthelezi for cooperating with the white government.

The issue of ties between UWUSA and the AFL-CIO's African-American Labor Center is a sensitive one. When asked about the dinner in the Washington restaurant, Mahomo at first denied that the two Inkatha businessmen were in Washington that evening and later denied that he had dined with the South Africans. Only when confronted with an eyewitness account of the meeting did he retract his denials, but he repeatedly insisted the men had not asked for AFL-CIO aid.

AALC Executive Director Patrick O'Farrell backed up Mahomo. "We're not supporting them; they didn't ask for our support; we're not giving them any. Quite frankly, they don't need it," he said in a May 7 telephone interview.

The following day, Conco and Davidson told a Johannesburg press conference that they *had* sought funding during an April 10 meeting in Washington with O'Farrell and Irving Brown, director of the AFL-CIO's International Affairs Department.

The *Financial Mail* reported Conco saying that the AFL-CIO's response was "it would be happy to aid individual unions—but not a union federation."

The UWUSA issue is only one part of the controversy surrounding the role of the AFL-CIO in South Africa. Describing the first two years of operation (1982 and 1983) the latest AALC report on its South Africa program says: "The AFL-