POLAROID OUT of SOUTH AFRICA! Order NO BULLSHIT - BOYCOTT POLAROID buttons! (25¢)

Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement
Box 6487, Boston, Mass. 02114
(617) 491-4465
**Polaroid Out of S. Africa**

Brothers and Sisters:

The POLAROID REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS MOVEMENT began October 1970 as a means of action by Black workers at Polaroid Corp., Cambridge, Mass., USA, against that company's business in South Africa. PFWM has demanded that Polaroid get out of South Africa, make an international statement of its position on apartheid, and turn over profits earned in South Africa to Liberation Movements fighting for their freedom. We have called an International Boycott of all Polaroid products to press these demands. To date the International Boycott has caused a loss of $15 million.

Now is expanding the boycott effort and have contacted you in hope that you will aid and support the campaign against Polaroid and in solidarity with the struggle in Southern Africa.

The campaign against Polaroid has given us insight into the role of Polaroid as supplier of South Africa's passbook photo and race ID card, as well as master of the means of world control and an agent of imperialism, fascism, and genocide. Polaroid began in South Africa in 1938 and in 1950 developed the instant photographic process. Polaroid has supplied South Africa with its instant cameras and film to enforce apartheid.

To protect its South Africa investment Polaroid promised better slave wages and better slave training at their South Africa factories. This was pushed as the "EXPERIMENT in SOUTH AFRICA" and has become known internationally as the "POLAROID DILEMMA". Even the South African Institute of Race Relations has called the experiment a lie and a failure (SA Financial Mail, 12/3/71). The results of the experiment will be announced in the US on Jan 13, 1971, but were given out in South Africa June, 1971 when the South African Ministry of Interior announced that new race identity cards would be issued - using the POLAROID ID-2 SYSTEM which produces ID's that are compatible to the newly built IBM NATIONAL DATA BANK. Polaroid will remain in South Africa, and has spent the past year planning to reinforce apartheid, under the cover of the so-called EXPERIMENT.

The demise of Polaroid has occurred because it refused to get out of South Africa and wash its hands free of the blood of Black people. Both the workers and stockholders are asking Polaroid to account for a $15 million loss on a "$1.5 million investment". They are also asking about the layoffs, Project 18, and why there is no bursary for the first time in Polaroid history, and the cuts in retirement. They want to know why Polaroid did not get out of South Africa?

PFWM asks the people to press against Polaroid a continued loss until all South Africa sales are ended and continued action against Polaroid Corp.: 

**Remember Sharpeville**

For info on how to help, contact:
PFWM, Box 8887, Boston 02114
(617) 426-3199

Local Polaroid Distributor:
Societe Tunisienne d'Optique et d'Arts Graphiques
44 Rue des Maltais, Tunis
Did Polaroid shout every South African black?

It's like opening a present.

Boycott
Support the black revolutionary workers at Polaroid.

Polaroid
Until all sales to South Africa are discontinued.
One main pillar of this system of apartheid (the forced inequality of racial groups) is the PASS LAWS. Every African is required to carry a pass (reference) book in order to work, move about, or live anywhere. Failure to produce a pass on demand is a criminal offence which results in imprisonment and fines for half a million Africans every year. It is the pass system which enables the white government to control the black majority with police state efficiency. To Africans the pass is a "badge of slavery."

**The Sharpeville Massacre.** The pass laws became the focus of protest in 1960 for a newly formed African nationalist party, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), an offshoot of the older African National Congress (ANC). The PAC leader, Mgwalkazi Robert Sobukwe, sent out the call to action:

The PAC plan was to mobilize the African people to march and to assemble at police stations without their passes thus inviting arrest. This was to be supported by a general work stoppage. If successful the jails would be full, the labor force would be cut, and the government would have to reconsider its policies. The protest was to be non-violent. Sobukwe said, "Our people must be taught now and continuously that in this campaign we are going to observe absolute non-violence... We are leading the vital, breathing and dynamic youth of our land. We are leading that youth, NOT TO DEATH BUT TO LIFE ABUNDANT."

More than a quarter of a million people responded to the call for civil disobedience throughout South Africa on March 21. At Sharpeville, an African "location" thirty miles south of Johannesburg, 5,000 or more Africans massed at the police station during the morning. Some people came thinking that they would hear some announcements related to an earlier police incident where tear gas and some shooting had occurred; others expecting a statement concerning passes. It was not an angry mob, but more like a celebration: There is no evidence that the police ever tried to find out why the crowd had gathered or had asked them to disperse. In mid-morning South African Sabre jets buzzed the crowd, and the police, now 300 in number, formed a line between the police station and a low wire fence surrounding the police compound. Some had automatic weapons which they were told to load. Five Saracen armored trucks moved into the crowd. The demonstration leaders asked the crowd to keep away from the fence, and several of them were arrested when the Special Branch (security police) came into the area. The crowd was noisy but not violent.

Then without warning, the police opened fire. When it was all over forty seconds later, 69 Africans were dead, 180 were wounded. The dead included eight women and ten children. The South African Government was quick to claim that the police had been charged by an angry mob, but Dr. John Friedman, Senior District Surgeon, later testified that 70 per cent of the victims were SHOT IN THE BACK. Eyewitness reports cite that the Africans had no weapons, and that none were found on the ground after the massacre.
What is Polaroid doing in South Africa?

Polaroid Corporation has been selling its products in South Africa since 1938. We sell cameras and film and sunglasses lenses to a local distributor there. Our business isn’t large compared to what we sell in other countries.

We have formed a committee of people from all over the company. Black and white, women and men, hourly and salaried employees. They want to try to understand the complexities of South Africa. A big

APARTEID - A FORM OF SLAVERY

Apartheid, though an Afrikaans word meaning separateness, or separate development, has come to mean a policy of the State based on racial segregation and race discrimination, and pursued in a most rigorous and brutal manner by a minority of whites against the large majority of Africans, Coloureds and Asians. In order to pursue such a policy, a cruel regime has been established, supported by a police state and the most wicked "legal" machinery imaginable.

South Africa is the only country in the world that proclaims the inequality of its citizens in its laws. The South Africa Act of 1961 declares that only white persons may become members of the all-powerful parliament. The Native Land Act, 1912, provides that Africans may not own land in 67 per cent of the country’s territory. The Group Areas Act, 1956, empowers the Government to proclaim ghettos for ownership and occupation by people of mixed descent and origin. The Native Urban Areas Act, 1945, restricts the entry of Africans into the towns and compels Africans in the cities to live in locations subject to the control of white superintendents. The Native Abolition of Passes Act, 1952, makes it compulsory for every African man or woman over sixteen to carry and produce on demand to any policeman a book containing his photograph, number, and the various permissions he needs in connexion with residence, movement, and work. The Population Registration Act, 1950, obliges every South African to have himself racially classified, and creates special race courts for investigation of borderline cases. The Reservation of Separate Amenities Act, 1955, expressly authorizes separate but unequal facilities in public places for persons of different races.
Dallas Senior Citizens Buy Pass to Ride ‘Empty’ Buses

DALLAS (AP)—Senior citizens now can ride city buses all they wish during off-peak hours by paying $5 for a pass. The pass will be available to only Dallas County residents who must obtain a photo identification card. The plan is on a six-month trial basis.

United Press International

DOVER, Del.—Since the blind and the visually impaired do not qualify for driver’s licenses, the most common form of identification accepted by stores and banks, the state of Delaware has come up with a solution to an often embarrassing problem.

Apparently the first in the nation to do so, Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles has begun issuing laminated identification cards with color photographs of the bearer to the 1,100 blind and visually handicapped state residents.

A service fee of $1 is charged to cover the cost of materials. Department employees are processing applications after work without pay.

On a smaller scale, the Union Trust Company in Baltimore has since begun providing similar identification cards to blind, employed adults in Maryland.

EDWIN H. LAND

President "Polaroid"

March 20, 1970

Since the very meaning of photography in its application to our daily lives may be altered upon the release by us of our new technology, our company can look forward to expansion not only in terms of economic growth, but also in terms of aesthetic, social, and scientific contributions to our society.

Sincerely,

Edwin H. Land
PRESS RELEASE: October 27, 1971

INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT

On October 27, 1971 the POLAROID REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS MOVEMENT called for an International Boycott of all Polaroid Instant Gadgets. We would like to report that public support in condemning Polaroid in its role as sole supplier of instant pass photos and race identity cards in South Africa has been shown by the loss of $15 million to-date in Polaroid's sales. Polaroid has admitted losses of $4 million in the first quarter, and $11 million in the third quarter of 1971.

We thank all those right-on thinking people who have supported our campaign this past year as well as call for further and intensified international support as we go into Phase II of the International Boycott. We feel that those financial losses should influence Polaroid, thru the workers or stockholders, and that the public's response will make it unprofitable to remain in South Africa.

POLAROID's EXPERIMENT TO PROTECT ITS SOUTH AFRICA INVESTMENT

Polaroid will put the final touches on its PR campaign in January, 1972. That date ends the so-called 'Experiment in South Africa.' Polaroid has tried to saturate the public with facts and figures about the economy of South Africa, with the ploy of increased investment in South Africa as a means of ending the insanity, brutality, and inhumanity of that race-identifying system, apartheid. The fact remains that Black South Africa—eleven years ago—chose armed warfare as the means of gaining their freedom. The fact is that Polaroid's investment in South Africa, and that of all foreign investors, is seriously threatened by the Liberation Movements in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau, and directly threatened by Blacks in Namibia, Rhodesia, and South Africa itself. The Polaroid Experiment is a part of the plan to maintain the power of the white fascist forces in South Africa and must be condemned now. There is no need to wait until Jan., '72. The results were established when Polaroid was confronted by PRRM. South Africa needs the pass and Polaroid to maintain apartheid. Polaroid will remain in South Africa and continue to supply that insane regime with its cameras, film, and ID equipment.

POLAROID PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN APARTHEID with IBM's HELP

While Polaroid and other supporters of racist South Africa are publicly talking of change in the apartheid system (DIALOGUE), they are planning and preparing the reinforcement of that vicious system. In February 1972, the South African regime will begin a new registration plan under the Population Registration Act of 1950. The plan is to replace the passbook and race IDs with a new COMPUTERIZED ID CARD. A Polaroid ID Card produced by the ID-3 Instant Identification System hooked up to an IBM 360 Computer Data Bank. On March 2, 1971 in the South African Hansard states: "The plan was scheduled to begin in June, 1971 but was canceled (due to PRRM's campaign). It will begin the first of Feb., 1972, will employ 436 persons under the Ministry of Interior, and Deputy Secretary will be in charge." The implementation of the plan will take five years.
TECHNOLOGICAL FASCISM

This is a new phase for the fascists in South Africa, technological fascism that knows no humanity. Now the police can be replaced by a computer box, and the pass and race ID with a Polaroid Data Card. We are dealing with the same mentality that reigned in Nazi Germany and that intends to put South Africa into an era that does not allow for conventional destruction. The result of Polaroid’s and IBM’s technological assistance in South Africa—the same system of population registration is used in South Vietnam under Operation Phoenix—is aimed at eliminating the forces of liberation in all of Southern Africa.

The future of PRWM is therefore very clear and necessary. We will continue to intensify our efforts against the Polaroid Corporation and all US companies in South Africa. The International Boycott, already a success, will continue with reinforced efforts nationally and internationally. We will continue to work to bring about a consciousness in the US concerning the role of the government, the corporations, and an unknowing public that aid and abet that inhuman system of forced labor.

We have expanded our functions and have expanded our membership to include not only Polaroid workers and former Polaroid employees, but also any right-thinking person who supports the struggle for the liberation of Southern Africa and the international liberation of all Black Peoples.

We must and will continue our public opposition to forced identity cards being issued throughout this country under various innocent disguises. We are opposed to the recent plan forcing high school students in Boston, Cambridge, Richmond, Berkeley, Memphis, New Orleans, Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., and too many more cities to carry an identity card and to be entered into a national computer data bank. We see an increasing similarity between the laws of South Africa and the United States and the resulting conditions. We call upon the public to deal with the seriousness of compulsory identity cards and the uniform means being imposed—Polaroid ID—now before it’s too late.

* PRWM’s PHASE II: FREEZE POLAROID FOR XMAS and UNTIL

* YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS NEEDED! There must be more active boycotting, leafleting, increased publicity. Push the new boycott slogan: Freeze Polaroid .. Until ...

* Circulate information on ID’s. Find out if colleges or high schools in area use or plan use if ID’s. And WHY? Resist the ID.

* Latest gimmick since the high school. ID is the Transit ID for the elderly. It gives a 50% discount, and comes complete with number and color photo. Boston and Dallas, so far.

* Starting Jan ’72 all credit cards will require a Polaroid color photo-data collectable ID card. This is the most complete means of everyone into a data bank. Resist this voluntary identity card.

* BEWARE of the VIP ID! Another opportunity to be laminated, coded, and photographed by Polaroid. For supermarket use, check-cashing, ..... RESIST THE ID BEFORE ITS TOO LATE.

Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Movement / P.O. Box 8457 / Boston, Mass 02114 / 617-491-4465
CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — The 1971 fall semester was the start of regulated I.D. cards for 16 year old and older students at two integrated local high schools. The stated purpose of the I.D. cards, which bears their photo, age and other particulars, is to screen the student and staff from "outsiders who allegedly caused the disruptions last year." Student identification cards may be required for Boston's 18 high schools, says Boston school superintendent, Dr. William H. Orenberger.

The cards, identical with the Nazi Germany I.D. cards, at Cambridge is no isolated incident but one of a series of incidents which revealed a vast underground plot to locate and isolate the aggressive intelligent Black elements in society that the American superstructure with its home grown Nazi ideology believe to be dangerous to their security.

Thus, the issue in the U.S. in 1972 "is" fascism today, not 1984, says Chairman of the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers Union, Caroline Hunter. PRWM is waging an all-out war against Polaroid ID-2 and ID-3 systems for photo identifications.

PRWM deserves the support of every black man and women in the U.S. and
Public Law 831 (Emergency Detention), against guerrilla warfare in this country. Elaborate plans have been made to seal off the black ghetto areas and institute a curfew with no one able to go in or out of an area after sundown. Thus, the black communities become detention camps at sundown.

All civil liberties would have to be suspended, search and seizure operations will be instituted during daylight hours, and anyone found armed or without proper identification will immediately be arrested, according to Chapter 10 of the Committee on Un-American Activities' report on "Guerrilla Warfare Advocates in the United States."

The Committee continues...

...If the guerrillas were able to hold out for a period of time then the population of the ghetto would be classified through an office for the control and organization of inhabitants. This office would distribute 'census cards' which would bear a photograph of the individual, the letter of the district in which he lives, his house and street number, and a letter designating his home city. Readers, this is what is in store for Black Americans today.

Police agencies would then be able to make arrests without warrants as is guaranteed usually so-called guaranteed by the Constitution would be suspended.

Blacks who have not yet fallen into the photo-identification trap should avoid it at all costs. This means Polaroid Mastercharge, Bankamericard or any other credit card trap.

The U.S. Justice Department's Immigration and Naturalization Service after protests from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Association of Immigration and Nationalities Lawyers dropped its planned issue of voluntary I.D. cards to all U.S. citizens.

The president of Polaroid, Edward Land, is a specialist in photo-identification and is widely credited with working with the CIA to develop the U-2 spy planes. It is no surprise that Polaroid has developed this fool-proof system of identification which it passes off on the public as a useful check cashing or shopping convenience.

ID cards are the first step towards computerizing every man, woman and child in the United States. The next step is detention and enslavement of any black person suspected of being a government termed black nationalist or revolutionary guerrilla.

Every totalitarian government has devised a tool or some means of subjugating its people through identity cards. In the past, however, these systems have been deficient because cards could be tampered with and altered.

Polaroid has put an end to all that by using its sophisticated technology to know how to seal the I.D. card in unbreakable plastic and register the data on computers.

Cambridge, Massachusetts and Richmond, Virginia have secondary school I.D.'s but Columbia, South Carolina has gone one step further by clearing the road to Naziism and population control—fingerprinting school children.

The South Carolina House has passed a bill to permit fingerprinting of school children and it is soon to be raping women of privacy.

The purpose of I.D. cards is obvious. They are an instrument of control and intimidation. In Vietnam, all Vietnamese at age 13 are required to carry on their persons at all times an ID card. If found without a card, the Vietnamese is subject to arrest or death as a suspected Vietcong.

Nazi Germany's master of propaganda, Goering, has been the mainstay influence on Madison Avenue advertising. The key word is saturation. Polaroid is saturating the public from every direction through private companies, banks, civic authorities, youth councils, government agencies and educational boards.

Blacks should not be tricked into joining the mad white rush for identification enabling the long arm of the power structure to reach out and touch you at will. Parents should not give their consent for school I.D. cards for their children and should vehemently resist any inclusion of such identification cards into the school regulations.

Provisions have already been made by the Committee on Un-American Activities, backed by
Brothers and Sisters:

August 20, 1971

ANOTHER POLAROID EXPERIMENT

This fall—starting Sept. 8, 1971—all Cambridge public high school students will be given an ID card with Polaroid color photo, ID number, detailed info, codes, made into at least two identical cards at once, and stating that the card must be carried at all times. The card will be encased in an indestructible plastic; this means that any attempt to open or alter the card will destroy it. The ID cards will be supplied by Avant Corp. of Lincoln, Mass.

The Avant Corp. produces instant identification systems, boasts 173 different types of systems, uses only Polaroid instant film in all its systems. Because Polaroid film is not compatible with conventional cameras, and is compatible only with Polaroid cameras, and Polaroid has a world monopoly in instant photography, Avant is and must be licensed by Polaroid to reproduce its cameras. In reality Avant is a front for Polaroid set up in 1960 after the Sharpeville Massacre, Avant sells the Polaroid ID equipment and film in the sensitive areas—South Africa, South Vietnam, and now the Cambridge schools.

On Oct. 13, 1971 the PHOENIX quoted a Polaroid executive as saying "You should go after Avant, a company right near here. They work on ID systems and have no compunctions about selling to the Bantu government..." when asked about Polaroid's sales in South Africa. Now Polaroid via Avant will be supplying youth thru out the US with the same ID cards required in South Africa and Vietnam under penalty of fines, jail, and death.

The purpose of the ID card is obvious—control, intimidation, and a closer step toward fascism.

Avant's systems have the same features as Polaroid's systems. Both produce as many as four ID cards at once, and both are computer-compatible. Both boast of having ID systems used by the highest levels of US government, armies of the world, colleges, high schools, banks, drivers licenses (Mass. uses Polaroid ID + Social Security number), all government employees, and numerous industries and businesses. The youth of the world are next. What about the babies?

Now is the time to organize active resistance to compulsory identification.

P.W.M. is working with high schools students in Cambridge and Boston, and is trying to inform more high schools students about the dangers of the ID cards. This is an experiment to be handed down to the elementary schools and future generations. Stop the ID now—before its too late.

* Check the high schools and colleges -- find out what type of ID system is used or planned. And why?
* Let students and general public know danger of identity cards. We can provide info on role of Polaroid and Avant and forced identity cards.
* Organize and plan active resistance to identification.

PROGRESS REPORT: THE INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT

The International Boycott is affecting Polaroid's sales. Polaroid has reported a loss of $4 million in the first quarter of 1971, and a decline in net earnings, and a loss of 11¢ a share. On July the report of net earnings was up $1 million or 2¢ a share. This stills leaves a low for the first half of 1971 due to heavy loss in the first, and a net loss of $4 million or 10¢ a share. POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Boycott the Instant GADGETS! RESIST the ID!
A member of PRWM went to London July 5, 1971 at the invitation and sponsorship of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement. Caroline Hunter spoke at the Anti-Apartheid Movement's Annual Freedom Day Conference, and spent time in London meeting with groups for future action and support of the international boycott.

The fact that the police of Birmingham, England, had just purchased an ID-3 Instant Identification System from Polaroid added to the interest and importance of the trip. PRWM's literature will be circulated by students unions throughout the universities of England, and groups in England gave PRWM the assurance that the International Boycott of Polaroid products and resistance to Polaroid IDs will be continued.

The government has already said that it will require Identity Cards for all British citizens if England joins the Common Market. The British Immigration Bill, which restricts the lives and work of blacks in England, has provisions requiring an ID card, and gives police the right to demand evidence of one's identity. And yet the Birmingham police claims that the ID-3 System just purchased is for internal use only.

Hunter visited Polaroid's British factories and attempted to talk to the workers, and was told by the manager of the sunglass division, A. Davis, "You can't see the workers here. They're happy and docile. We pay them a little more than the union, and give them a bonus. They don't need a union. They're happy." The international policy of Polaroid is cheap, slave labor. There are three factories and assembly plants in England and no unions allowed. Polaroid uses cheap labor here and in South Africa and around the world.

OTHER NEWS

Polaroid's big selling camera the Swinger and Big Swinger were used at the May Day demos for mass arrests. Approximately 13,100 persons were photographed. The procedure was developed during the rebellions after King's assassinations, and involve a Polaroid black and white photo (takes only 15 seconds to develop) of the police and victim in the arrest. The Washington Post, August 5, 1971 reports "PROTEST SWELL POLICE FILES" in the increased use of photographers at demos, Sgt. Cecil Kirk of the D.C. police says that citizens shouldn't be offended or intimidated if they haven't broken a law. On May Day Kirk "Police depts. all over the world wanted to know, How did you handle 12,000 arrests? The best way is to provide film."

A Commerce Dept. list of US companies doing business in South Africa has suddenly become "restricted" in Wash. The Dept. strategist withdrew the list so that some of the nation's major corporations -- including General Electric -- would not become engulfed in the boycott threat that Polaroid suffers....(JET)

New York Times reports July 7, 1971,...the Police Dept. is using Polaroid cameras to get evidence for loitering charges against prostitutes....

PRWM will continue to organize the boycott and active resistance to Polaroid IDs and needs your continued support. We need response and more progress reports about the success of the boycott in your area, and reports of the use or planned use if IDs. The success of the International Boycott will depend on the resistance to Polaroid IDs since the major buyers are now the government, police forces, welfare agencies, and colleges and high schools. BOYCOTT POLAROID! RESIST THE ID! STOP THE INSTANT SLAVERY!