

# THESE ARE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD MINERS



## They built the Kennedy School library — not Charles Engelhard.

The John F. Kennedy School of Government has named its new library for Charles W. Engelhard, American multinational businessman and profiteer, supporter, and promoter of the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. Engelhard converted a twenty million inheritance into a quarter-billion dollar empire on the basis of South African investments--controlling interests in 23 different South African enterprises and control of 15% of the South African gold mining industry. Engelhard's huge profits were made possible by the apartheid system--and Harvard, by accepting \$1 million from the Engelhard family foundation, has once again demonstrated its callous indifference to the plight of black South Africans exploited by Engelhard and other U. S. investors. Harvard has implicitly approved of the way Engelhard has made his money--and all the protestations about the so-called neutrality of investment or the need to place the academic goals of the university above all other considerations cannot change this fact.

The mining sector in which Engelhard made his millions is probably the most exploitative sector of the South African economy. Mine operators often pay their black workers less than half the amount prescribed by the Poverty Datum Line, and send them to work with such poor safety precautions that from 1936-66 19,000 men, 93% of them black, died in the gold mines alone--an average of three deaths per shift (according to the International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa). Engelhard not only benefitted from the system; he was the only foreigner to actually sit on the boards of two South African government agencies responsible for recruiting blacks to work under these conditions, the Witwatersrand Native Labor Association and the Native Recruiting Agency.

Engelhard depended on the apartheid system to keep his gold mines supplied with cheap black labor. Apartheid is more than just racial discrimination--it means that the 83% of South Africans who are black are stripped of citizenship in their own country and instead made citizens of the Bantustans, made up of the poorest 13% of South Africa's land. Conditions are so poor in the Bantustans that blacks are forced to seek work in the industrialized white areas, where they have no rights as citizens. Many workers live in detention-camp-like barracks while their wives and children, considered "superfluous appendages" by the government, are forced to stay in the starving Bantustans where, according to UNESCO, half of all children die before the age of six. Blacks caught in white areas whose "passbooks" are not in order are fined--at the rate of over 1,000 per day according to some U.N. estimates--jailed, or sent back to the Bantustans. Black unions and strikes are illegal under almost all circumstances; acts passed by the white parliament severely limit freedom of speech, movement, assembly, the press, and so forth. Black leaders are jailed, banned, exiled, or--like Steve Biko--simply murdered. Blacks are not allowed to vote.

Former Prime Minister John Vorster explained that:

"the fact of the matter is that we need [the blacks] because they work for us...but the fact that they work for us can never entitle them to claim political rights, not now nor in the future."

And Charles Engelhard, far from maintaining the so-called multinational businessman's "neutrality" said:

"the policy of South Africa as expressed by the Prime Minister [Vorster] is as much in the interest of South Africa as anything I could think of or suggest. I am not a South African, but there is nothing I would do better or differently." Engelhard was the biggest single American investor in South Africa; after the Sharpeville Massacre (of 69 peaceful protesters) in 1961, when the flight of foreign investment threatened the stability of the white minority government, Engelhard engineered the key American bank loans that helped refloat the South African economy and its instruments of repression.

Charles Engelhard was a vocal supporter of the apartheid system, and he backed up his words with action. These are the public policy credentials of the man the Kennedy School has chosen to honor by putting his name on a library. By accepting this man's money, Harvard is showing the same indifference to the condition of black South Africans that it did in its April, 1978 decision on Harvard's \$350 million of investments in companies operating in South Africa. Virtually every independent black leader in South Africa has called for U. S. corporations to withdraw from that country, citing the sophisticated technology, foreign exchange, \$200 million annually in taxes, and the legitimacy that U. S. corporations give the apartheid regime and the white-controlled economy. The U. N. General Assembly, the World Council of Churches, the NAACP, and many others have echoed the call for withdrawal, arguing that the corporations' proposals to improve employment practices (the Sullivan Principles) only affect 0.4% of the black workforce and do not address the fundamental political issues at all. Yet Harvard has failed to call for corporate withdrawal, and while President Bok and the Harvard Corporation profess opposition to bank loans to the South African government, Harvard still holds \$1 million in bonds from Manufacturers Hanover Trust, whose publicly stated policy is to continue loaning money to the apartheid regime.

We ask that all concerned students, faculty members, alumni/ae and workers publicly express their indignation and outrage at the Engelhard gift during the dedication ceremony. And we ask that all concerned members of the Harvard community intensify the campaign to get Harvard investments and all U. S. corporations out of South Africa.

## PROTEST HARVARD'S ROLE IN APARTHEID

### at the dedication of the Kennedy school of government saturday, oct. 21 10:00 A.M.

Sponsored by the Black Students Association, the Southern Africa Solidarity Committee, and the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee

## **WE DEMAND:**

### **The right to address the Kennedy School audience.**

Whereas the dedication of the Kennedy School of Government Library to the memory of Charles Englehard is yet another example of Harvard University's tacit approval of the South African apartheid regime, we, the members of the Southern Africa Solidarity Committee and the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, and other concerned members of the Harvard community, demand of President Bok that a speaker, to be designated by the sponsoring organizations, be allowed ten minutes to address the dedication audience on the issue of Harvard University's investment in American corporations operating in South Africa.

### **That the KSG library not commemorate Charles Englehard.**

Whereas Charles Engelhard gained his considerable fortune from the exploitation of black South African workers, we, concerned members of the Harvard community, demand of the Harvard Corporation that the new Kennedy School of Government library not be named in memory of Charles Engelhard.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last year, in response to petitions and demonstrations supported by thousands of members of the Harvard community, the Harvard Corporation refused to take any effective measures in support of corporate withdrawal from South Africa. We have asked President Bok for a short portion of the dedication program to voice our indignation at the naming of the KSG library in memory of Charles Engelhard and our opposition to Harvard's continued investments in apartheid. Last year, President Bok claimed at Commencement and elsewhere that he believed in reasonable discourse and free and open debate. We believe that at this convocation of Harvard faculty, students, employees, alumni and friends, a major portion of the Harvard community should be permitted the freedom to address briefly these critical issues.