



THE STRUGGLE IN AFRICA

"We are aware that without the involvement of foreign companies and usually without the support of the other Western governments, Portugal could not stand the pressure on her in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea for even a week."

Eduardo Mondlane,
assassinated President, FRELIMO

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COMMITTEE OF RETURNED VOLUNTEERS

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CRV and SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern Africa is the scene of an escalating armed struggle. South Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal supported by the United States and Western European powers are confronting a coordinated, southward thrust of the Liberation Movements. This alliance (whose military strength lies in the well-equipped and highly mobile counterinsurgency forces of South Africa and the NATO-trained and equipped Portuguese) represents the solidarity of the racist and colonial regimes of Southern Africa and makes clear the role of multinational corporate capitalism fighting to assure control over the resources and development in Southern Africa. US corporations and the regimes of Southern Africa have joined forces to defeat the national liberation movement of the people of the area.

CRV at the General Assembly in September adopted a national organizing project on Southern Africa. The Assembly resolution emphasized the alliance of racism and imperialism working together to control the Southern African sub-continent and called for support for the Liberation Movements. In the past most of the efforts in the US to organize around Southern Africa have been anti-apartheid campaigns. When focusing on bank or corporate involvement in Southern Africa morality was given as the rationale for US disentanglement. These past efforts usually failed to explain US support for the racist and colonial regimes in Southern Africa in such a way as to make clear the imperialist character of US policy.

CRV maintains that it is important and necessary to view Southern Africa and US involvement in that region in the context of imperialism and to analyze the alliances of the international capitalist structure with South Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal in relation to this large global pattern. Therefore, CRV will focus on the involvement of US corporations in Southern Africa and the assistance these corporations give to the regimes there to exploit and oppress the people and to oppose their movements for national liberation.

At the National Board meeting in Milwaukee a national CRV Southern Africa Committee was formed and decided with Board concurrence that the most effective way of attacking US corporate involvement in Southern Africa was to select one corporation which played an important role in Southern Africa. Since at this point the struggle in the Portuguese colonies is most intense, the Gulf Oil Corporation was selected. Gulf is involved in both Angola and South Africa.

It is hoped that where Gulf is not an easy target other corporations with Southern Africa involvement will be selected. CRV/Milwaukee is going to be focusing on Cutler-Hammer Corporation, Milwaukee-based and incorporated in Wisconsin. It has factories in South Africa making electronic components and is also a large US defense contractor. CRV people in Madison working through a local Southern Africa committee have chosen Allis-Chalmers, another Wisconsin firm which has built a nuclear reactor in South Africa. As for Gulf CRV/NY is already active and has held one action (leafletting on MPLA Day, February 4th) at Gulf headquarters in New York. Gulf Oil has been selected by the New Mobe as one of the targets for the anti-corporate strategy of the spring offensive and CRV people are working with local Pittsburgh movement people to prepare for the annual Gulf meeting to be held in Pittsburgh on April 28th.

All of these efforts are part of the move to raise support for the Liberation Movements of Southern Africa and to increase public consciousness about the nature of US corporate structure and imperialism in Africa and throughout the 3rd World.