



No. 5

# BOYCOTT SHELL

## B · U · L · L · E · T · I · N

## LOCAL ACTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 4 AND MAY 9

Local coalitions are planning a variety of protest activities for April 4 and May 9—national days of action for the Boycott Shell campaign.

Boycott organizers have called on local groups to join in coordinated actions such as the following:

- Informational leafleting at Shell service stations.
- Rallies and demonstrations at Shell corporate offices.
- Public actions asking local and state governments, businesses, and other bulk consumers of Shell products to join the boycott.

Materials for the actions, such as signs, leaflets, and buttons, are available from the Boycott Shell Campaign. (See coupon on back page.)

The call for action this spring follows an agreement on a new Boycott Shell offensive by anti-apartheid groups from the U.S., Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Belgium.

At a meeting in the Netherlands, representatives of anti-apartheid coalitions in Europe and North America agreed to make Shell a prime target because it provides petroleum products to South Africa, a country which does not have oil of its own.

"The boycott has had a clear impact on Shell's profits and has educated millions about the role of multinational corporations like Shell in propping up apartheid in South Africa," said labor boycott co-chairs Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers, and Owen Bieber, president of the United Auto Workers and chair of the AFL-CIO Committee on South Africa.

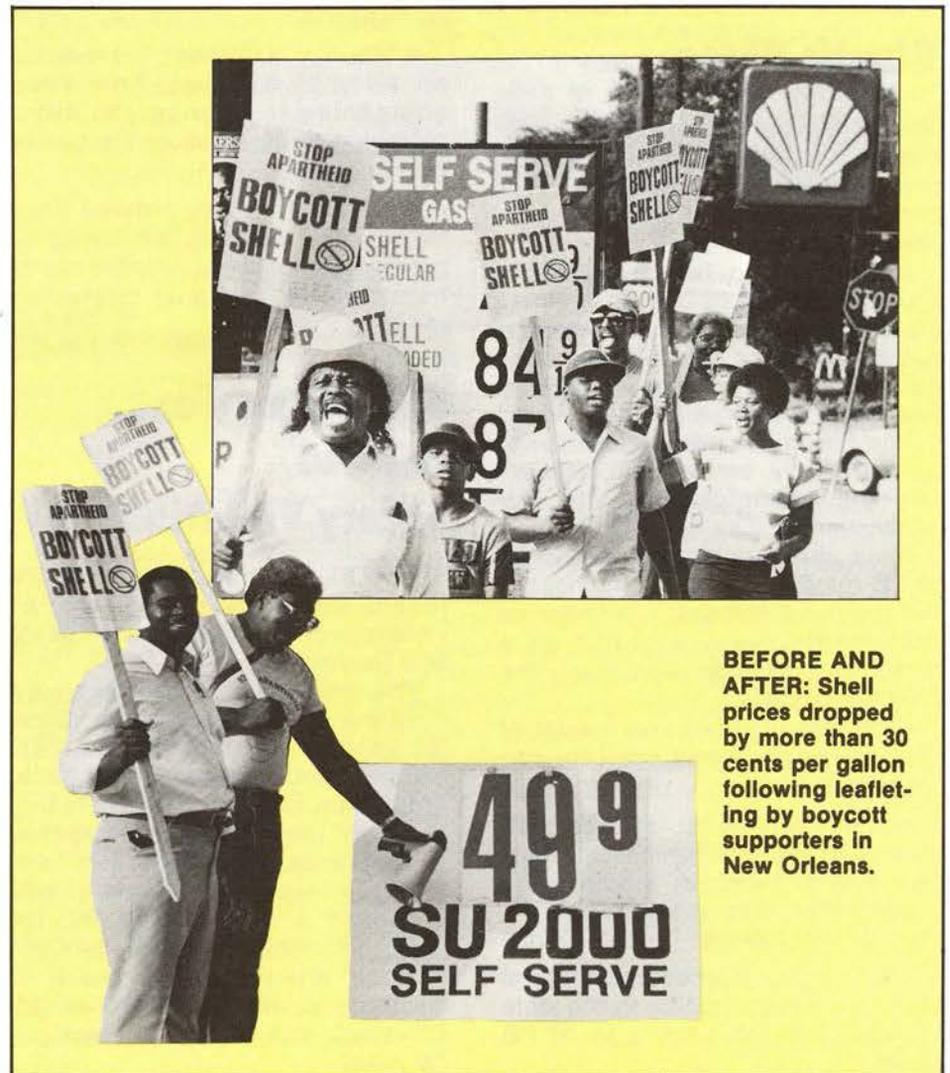
"We need to demonstrably escalate public boycott activities this

spring to send a clear message to the company that the time has come to pull out of South Africa."

Randall Robinson, co-chair of the Free South Africa Movement, said that "Shell has already admitted that the boycott is having an effect. We will intensify our efforts to demon-

strate to Shell that you cannot do business in South Africa and still do business with the American people."

The April 4 actions are timed to coincide with protests called by the American Committee on Africa to protest corporate support for apartheid in South Africa.



**BEFORE AND AFTER:** Shell prices dropped by more than 30 cents per gallon following leafleting by boycott supporters in New Orleans.



**LEAFLETING CONSUMERS:** Regular leafleting of Shell stations continues in cities such as Birmingham, Ala. (left), and Santa Cruz, Calif. (above).

## Shell Facing Public Revolt Over Plastic Pipes

Shell Chemical Co. is facing a public outcry because of health hazards and product failure involving polybutylene (PB) piping systems it markets across the U.S.

According to testimony from Plumbers Local 75 before the Wisconsin state senate, the PB piping systems failed in 30 to 50 percent of houses within three weeks to three years of installation.

The fittings commonly used with the PB pipes often leach cancer-causing formaldehyde into the water, the local said.

Shell, the nation's only producer of PB resin, knew about the hazard but did not disclose it until internal documents became public as a result of a trial in California, the plumbers said.

Examples of attacks on the use of the piping systems include the following:

- The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the largest national model code organization, has voted to ban PB pipe from buildings.

- Following that decision, Shell withdrew its application to the state of New York to allow use of PB pipes.

- The City of San Antonio has sued Shell and pipe and fitting manufacturers which use PB resin after PB piping systems the city installed began breaking and had to be replaced.

- The City of Chicago has rejected an attempt by Shell and other companies to change the city's plumbing code to allow the use of plastic pipes.

- A California jury ordered Shell to pay \$5.2 million for trying to prevent disclosure of possible health hazards from PB piping systems.

## Shell Cited For 'Willful' Safety Violations

Shell Oil Co. has been cited by federal inspectors for 61 "willful" violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The company is charged with covering up injuries such as burns, inhalation of toxic substances, bruises, and strains of the back, groin, shoulder and neck by failing to record them in logs it is required to keep under the OSHA law.

OSHA inspection officials have proposed a fine of \$244,960 for these violations, which were brought to their attention as a result of discussions with members of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Local 4-367.

## Despite Denials, Shell's Oil Reaches South Africa

Royal Dutch/Shell has always admitted that its South African subsidiary refines and distributes petroleum for the apartheid economy—but since 1982 it has denied that it has supplied that subsidiary with crude oil.

Now, the independent Shipping Research Bureau of the Netherlands has identified 56 shipments of Shell crude oil that reached South Africa as recently as October, 1986. Most of the oil was used by the Shell-BP refinery in Durban, South Africa.

The Bureau said that the oil was produced in the tiny Asian country of Brunei by a joint subsidiary of Royal Dutch/Shell and the Brunei government. The international oil embargo against South Africa was circumvented by passing the oil through a chain of intermediaries before it reached the refinery co-owned by Shell South Africa.

Supplying either crude oil or refined petroleum products violates the United Nations oil embargo against South Africa. If all companies and countries observed the embargo, the apartheid economy and the South African military and police could not continue to function because South Africa does not have its own oil supply.

## Company Chairman Admits "Engagement" Does Not Work

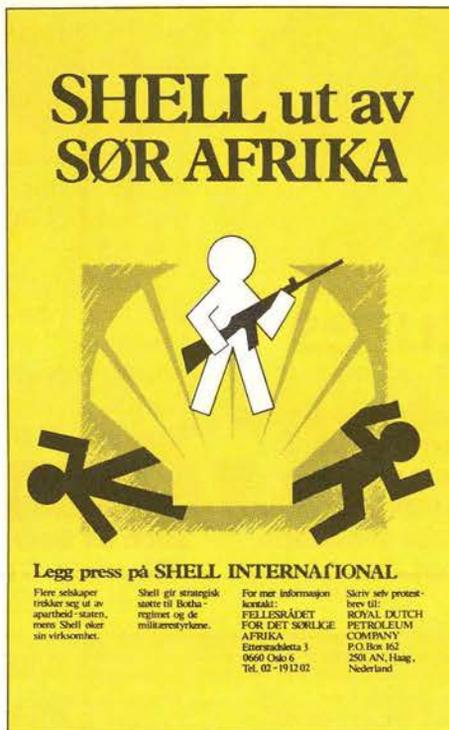
Royal Dutch Petroleum Chairman G.A. Wagner has admitted that, despite claims to the contrary, corporations cannot effectively oppose apartheid by continuing to be involved in South Africa. Royal Dutch is the majority owner of Royal Dutch/Shell.

Shell, like many other multinational corporations, has argued that it can do more to pressure the South African government through quiet diplomacy than by withdrawing its economic support for the apartheid regime.

But in a December 20, 1986 interview with the Dutch weekly, *Vrij Nederland*, Wagner admitted that the company's anti-apartheid statements have little impact.

"I am convinced that we, Shell that is...does everything possible, though it is not much, since one is embedded in a terrible system," he said.

"When it becomes clear that one cannot do much, then one has to pose the question as to whether it is morally justified to work in a country



**POSTER FROM NORWAY:** This color poster, "Shell Out of South Africa," is one of a series distributed by the Norwegian anti-apartheid coalition.

with a reprehensible regime.

"If we were not already there, I would not have gone to South Africa," Wagner concluded.

## World Churches Issue Call

The World Council of Churches has called for intensified action against Royal Dutch/Shell.

The Council's central committee said church groups should "join the churches of Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. in an international campaign to force Shell to withdraw from South Africa and Namibia."

The Council noted that "oil is the only strategic raw material that South Africa does not possess. Shell not only refines it for South Africa, but also has appointed armed security personnel to work with the South African Defence Force."

## State Legislators Support Boycott

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators voted Dec. 6 to endorse and support the Shell boycott.

The state legislators agreed to work to prevent the investment of public funds in Shell, state use of Shell credit cards, and state purchasing of Shell products.

## FUEL FOR THOUGHT...

Motorists will be urged to boycott Shell petrol stations as the Anti-Apartheid movement steps up its campaign to get all British companies out of South Africa.

Campaigners decided to go gunning for Shell at their annual meeting in London yesterday.

It comes just two months after banking giant Barclays Bank bowed to pressure and sold their South African interests.

One of the movement's officials, the Rev. David Haslam, said: "1986 was the year of Barclays—1987 will be the year of Shell."

*London Daily Mail*, January 12, 1987

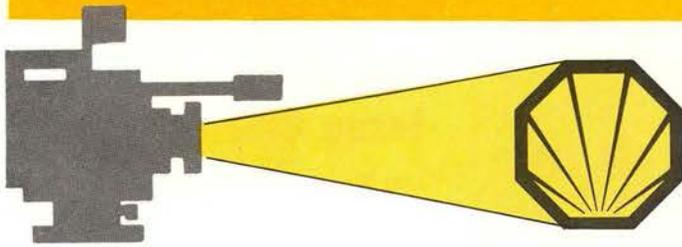
The Inner London Education Authority looks likely to join the boycott of the Anglo-Dutch oil company, Shell, from which it buys oil and petrol products worth £11 million a year.

ILEA...is the largest local authority bulk buyer in Britain.

*Manchester Guardian*, January 15, 1987

The following is the text of a Shell advertisement in the magazine, *South Africa Leadership* (No. 5, 1986), designed to show South African business and political leaders the important role Shell plays in that country's apartheid economy:

Petrol and oil. Two products synonymous with the name Shell. But did you know Shell (through its nearly six thousand employees) is active in no fewer than eight vital industries? For instance, Shell will provide some six million tons of coal this year. As well as nearly thirty five thousand tons of zinc and seven thousand tons of lead. Shell companies will produce a million Primus stoves this year. And twenty percent of South Africa's household gas. A Shell subsidiary will make over fifty percent of the country's candles this year. Shell chemicals will be used throughout agriculture and industry. And Shell technology will double the yield of almost six thousand hectares of prime South African forest.



# Apartheid in Moving Pictures

Films and videos to show at meetings to promote the Shell boycott or other anti-apartheid work are available from a number of sources.

The Boycott Shell Campaign distributes "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell," a 9-minute slide/tape show (also available in video format).

The Southern Africa Media Center distributes a dozen films and videos that show life under apartheid. For a free catalog, write to the Center c/o California Newsreel, 630 Natoma St., San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: (415) 621-6196.

Icarus Films is another distributor of films on South Africa. Contact them at 200 Park Ave. S., Suite 1319, New York, NY 10003. Phone: (212) 674-3375.

The American Friends Service Committee distributes a new 30-minute video, "South Africa: Unedited," made up of footage shot inside the country since stricter censorship was imposed. Rental in VHS format is \$25; the sale price is \$65. Contact AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Phone: (215) 241-7175.

**To order Boycott Shell Campaign materials such as bumper stickers, leaflets, and poster-size "Discredit Cards," please use the coupon below.**

QTY.	SHELL BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN MATERIALS	COST
	<b>Bumper sticker:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ "Save U.S. Jobs, Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 15¢ for over 200.	
	<b>Buttons:</b> "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 30¢ for over 200.	
	<b>Wallet-size "Discredit Card":</b> A reminder of your commitment to boycott Shell products. \$2.50/hundred.	
	<b>Basic 16-page booklet:</b> Gives the basics on apartheid, why Shell is a boycott target, and Shell's involvement in South Africa. 75¢ for 1-100, 50¢ for over 100.	
	<b>Basic leaflets:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ A leaflet to use while picketing, explaining the campaign. <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ A leaflet for particular use in labor meetings and conferences. <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ A leaflet for outreach to sympathetic general audiences. \$5/hundred.	
	<b>Campaign slide/tape show:</b> A 9-minute show featuring boycott leaders and the president of the South African National Union of Mineworkers. Also available in video format. \$100 each to buy, \$50 to rent.	
	<b>Workplace stickers:</b> "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 10¢ for 1-100, 5¢ for over 100.	
	<b>Poster-size "Discredit Card":</b> \$5 each. (Free with orders of \$250 or more.)	
	<b>Poster for stores:</b> "No Shell Products Sold Here" and why. 50¢ for 1-200, 15¢ for over 200.	
	<b>"Protect Our Jobs" brochure:</b> How the Shell campaign helps preserve coal jobs in the U.S. \$5/hundred.	
	<b>"Boycott Shell" Bulletin:</b> 40¢ for 1-50; 25¢ for over 50.	
	<i>Please add 25 percent for postage and handling.</i>	

## ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Make checks payable to Boycott Shell Campaign and send c/o United Mine Workers of America, 900 15th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.**

**Phone: (202) 842-7350**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due

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