

APARTHEID in SOUTH AFRICA



CONNECTICUT'S INVESTMENT IN RACISM

CONNECTICUT ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE

The CT Anti-Apartheid Committee opposes the presence of U.S. based multi-national corporations in the Republic of South Africa, as they directly support the apartheid policies of the white minority regime. In order to pressure the companies' withdrawal, we urge the immediate sale by the State of Connecticut and the City of Hartford of stocks and securities totaling over \$200 million invested in corporations and banks currently doing business in South Africa.

WHAT IS APARTHEID?

Apartheid is a system of institutionalized racism which determines virtually every aspect of life in South Africa. Because of apartheid's racial classifications, the vast majority of South Africa's people are without the right to vote, without the right to own property, and unable to form or belong to their own trade unions or political organizations. They are subject to discrimination in employment, education, medical care, housing and virtually every other field right down to the use of playgrounds and parks.

BANTUSTANS

Essential to the system is the concept of separate development - the black 70% of the population must legally live on undeveloped and barren reserves comprising 13% of the country's land. The remaining area, containing vast mineral, agricultural and industrial wealth, is the designated territory for the nation's 4.5 million whites.

Unable to support their populations, the reserves (called Bantustans) are literally nothing more than labor reservoirs. Africans who live there, desperate to escape taxation, unemployment and even starvation, are forced to become migrant and contract labourers in the mines and industries of white South Africa. The aim of the entire system is to provide the white owned economy with an uninterrupted supply of cheap black labor without creating a large settled urban black population.

The Prime Minister of South Africa himself admits this:

"It is true there are blacks working for us. They will continue working for us. They will continue to work for us for generations, in spite of the ideal that we have to separate them completely. The fact of the matter is this: we need them 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 ... under no circumstances."

When in white areas, blacks are only temporary "visitors", with no rights whatsoever. Only those with jobs are able to leave the Bantustans, regardless of family ties. and a worker who quits or is fired must immediately return. Such a system

reduces the black worker to barely more than a slave.

Urban blacks may not live in "white" cities but are herded into sprawling ghettos on the outskirts called townships. Life there is no less bleak than on a reserve. In Soweto, 85% of the residents use candles as their only source of light and heat.

Discrimination against non-whites is a feature everywhere. Blacks are forbidden by law to earn more than whites, whose average wage is *ten* times as high. The white per capita income, \$2,400, is more than twenty times that of the blacks. Unemployment compensation and social security are unheard of for black South Africans. There is at least one doctor for every 450 whites, while the black doctor-patient ratio is roughly 1 to 100,000 and even lower on the Bantustans. Of every 1,000 children born there, 530 are dead by the age of five.

Education available to Africans is designed to teach them solely how to function well in the low paying unskilled jobs to which they are restricted by law. Blacks must pay for their schooling, while for whites it is free and mandatory.

In order to maintain this vast deprivation and denial of basic rights, constant repression has become the heart and soul of apartheid. Blacks over the age of sixteen are required to carry an identification passbook at all times or face immediate arrest. South Africa has the highest per capita prison population in the world -- 1 of 2 black males face imprisonment every 10 years.

WHO BENEFITS?

Brutal economic exploitation is at the core of the apartheid system. By creating forced labor conditions and stripping the majority of even a pretense of rights, it maintains wages at the barest minimum and maximizes profits.

In addition to abundant cheap labor, South Africa has the largest and most varied amounts of raw materials in the world next to the U.S. and the Soviet Union. This includes gold, diamonds, copper, nickel, tin, manganese, asbestos, zinc and uranium. Such natural resources and a rate of profit nearly 70% higher than the world average have lured large

numbers of multinational corporations to South Africa.

When they invest in South Africa, corporations kill two birds with one stone. They increase their profits by paying lower wages and they weaken the domestic labor movement by creating unemployment or threatening to "runaway".

U.S.

Over 350 U.S. based multinationals have invested nearly \$2 billion there and U.S. banks have almost 3 billion dollars in outstanding loans to the South African government. This includes 8 of the 10 largest U.S. corporations. Among them are the giant auto makers, oil producers such as Mobil and Texaco, IBM and GE. Concentrated in strategic areas of the South African economy, these corporations add vital strength and credibility to the apartheid economy, government and military.

They provide the technology, expertise, and capital crucial to a system dependent on foreign involvement. GM is the country's leading auto manufacturer and has built a plant which, within 48 hours, can be converted into a factory producing military equipment. IBM supplies more than half of the economy's computers and 30% of its sales are to the South African government. Yearly U.S. bank loans to the government roughly equal the annual military budget. And Mobil and Caltex operate the country's largest refineries of oil, the one vital resource the country lacks.

For several reasons, every significant black organization in South Africa is asking these firms to withdraw. In addition to strengthening and stabilizing the economy and government, the interests of U.S. corporations have determined a U.S. policy of collaboration and support for the white minority regime. The U.S. has consistently vetoed UN resolutions advocating economic sanctions against the country and the mere presence of U.S. capital presents the possibility of U.S. military intervention on behalf of the South African government in order to defend U.S. economic interests.

Many U.S. companies under pressure to withdraw have, in response, adopted the Sullivan Principles, which state primarily that the company will eliminate discrimination and segregation at the workplace. The implication is that the

presence of U.S. corporations could improve the situation. But these principles cannot be implemented fully, according to South African law and, in any case, would effect only a very few blacks.

The truth is that investment by U.S. companies has not benefited black South Africans. Since the massive flow of foreign investment into the country in the 1950's, their living conditions have worsened. The real wage has declined 30% since that time. And during this period, non-whites lost their last representation in parliament, black opposition parties, press and leadership were banned and laws permitting the arrest without charges, trial or appeal were enacted.

RESISTANCE

Despite its illegality, resistance to apartheid has developed into a massive movement of the people, who have organized trade unions in industry, student organizations among young people, benefit societies serving the relatives of political prisoners, and other groups throughout the country. The resistance movement receives coordination and leadership principally from the African National Congress, an organization founded over 60 years ago and banned in South Africa since the early 1960's. The ANC fights to eliminate the oppressive apartheid system and to establish a South Africa with justice for all its people, black and white.

FROM SOUTH AFRICA: A CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS

As the situation in South Africa has escalated towards civil war, the African National Congress has stepped up its efforts to eliminate international backing for the apartheid government, calling for a complete economic boycott of the country. The UN General Assembly, Organization of African Unity and World Council of Churches have officially adopted a position of support for the boycott and international opposition to apartheid continues to grow. In the U.S., many universities, unions, churches, town councils, and community groups have advocated the withdrawal of U.S. investment.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The CT Anti-Apartheid Committee is asking the citizens of Connecticut to demand that the State and the City of Hartford sell all stocks and securities, in large part paid by pension and retirement funds, in those companies and banks that do business in or lend to South Africa. We need your participation to make this effort successful. If you would like to join us, need more information or would like one of us to speak to your organization, please contact us through the numbers or address below.

ENDORSEMENTS:

U.S. Rep. Toby Moffett
Mayor George Athanson, Hartford
J. Brown, Pres. New England Health Care Workers Union, District 1199
Hank Murray, Educational Director, UAW
John Wilhelm, Sec. Treas. Local 217, Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union
State Rep. Boyd Hinds
CT State Labor Council (AFL-CIO)
Greater Hartford Labor Council (AFL-CIO)
Meriden Labor Council (AFL-CIO)
Waterbury Labor Council (AFL-CIO)
New Haven Labor Council (AFL-CIO)
Bristol Labor Council (AFL-CIO)
Hartford Area Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)
Committee of 24, Hartford
Spanish Action Council, Waterbury
Vieques Support Committee, Hartford
Inter-Denominational Ministers Alliance, Hartford
City Workers Against Apartheid, Hartford
Visiting Nurses Association Anti-Apartheid Committee, Hartford
North United Methodist Church, Hartford
American Friends' Service Comm. (CT)
New Haven People's Center
Peace Center, New Haven
Afro American Cultural Center, New Haven
Pearl Street Community House, Waterbury
Hartford NAACP
National Council of Negro Women, Hartford
John Del Vecchio
Edwin Vargas
Hartford Peace Coalition
Hartford Chile Solidarity Comm.
Harriet Tubman Club
Coalition for a Just Society
New Haven Federation of Teachers, Local 933
CT State Federation of Teachers
Homefront, Hartford
Young Workers Liberation League
United Farmworkers Support Committee, New Haven
New Haven Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee
Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Hartford
AFSCME Local 1716
International Association of Machinists, District 91
International Association of Machinists, Local Lodge 707
IAM Local Lodge 1746-A
United Auto Workers, CT State CAP
Rudy Arnold, City Councilman, Hartford
State Rep. Thirman Milner
PUSH, Hartford
The Guardians of the Hartford Police Department
CT Education Association

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