GULF BOYCOTT COALITION NEWSLETTER, May, 1974
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IMPORTANT PRESS RELEASE ENCLOSED

Due to the recent change of government in Portugal it is most important that we escalate our Gulf Boycott activities. Enclosed is a press release which consists of a statement regarding the present situation in Portugal and our assessment of that situation as it relates to the Portuguese colonies. Please see that it gets the widest possible coverage. If you have questions regarding the statement please contact us. If you desire more copies of the release please feel free to reproduce it or contact us for additional copies.

GBC ACTIONS NEEDED

As a result of the change in government in Portugal it is time for letters to Gulf regarding their actions to protect their investment in Angola. Letters should also be sent to local newspapers to publicize Gulf’s role in Angola. Demonstrations in front of Gulf buildings are also urged. The whole world is finally aware that there is and has been a war going on in Angola, as well as the other Portuguese colonies. Gulf’s role is not yet so well known. Finally, we urge you to write to your Congressman/woman and Senators asking them to make sure that Gulf does not become another ITT (Chile).

GULF CLOSE TO THE CIA

The April 21, 1974 New York Times carried an article by Clyde H. Farnsworth called "The Eighth Oil Sister Has French Accent". The following is a quote from that article: "Exxon used to be close to the State Dept, but European oil industry sources report that Exxon’s chairman, J.K. Jamieson, doesn’t get on at all well with Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. The same sources also report that the Gulf Oil Corporation, of all the American companies, is closest to the Central Intelligence Agency."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATED

Between two and three thousand people marched in the Chicago loop to celebrate International Women’s Day on March 9th. The central demands of the march had to do with equality and economic justice, but there were slogans and speeches at the rally which dealt with other issues, including solidarity with women's struggles in other countries. The march and rally were very spirited, rich with music and color. Banners carried messages of condemnation of American corporations, including Gulf Oil, for their support of repressive and racist governments and for their participation in the oppression of both men and women.

REPORT OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

The next newsletter will have more details on the Gulf stockholders. Enclosed is a report from the New York Times regarding the meeting. The enclosed Wanted Flyer was used to leaflet stockholders as they entered the meeting as well as people on the streets in downtown Pittsburgh. Additional copies of this poster are available. The cost is: 100 for $1.00, 250 for $2.00 and multiples of 500 for $6.00

THANKS!!

A big thanks to those who have responded to our request for financial assistance.
INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGUESE COLONIES UNCERTAIN

The military junta that took power after last Thursday's coup in Portugal has made it clear that it is not prepared to end the war in the African colonies by granting them independence. In a meeting with newspaper editors General Antonio de Spinola stated: "Self-determination should not be confused with independence."

General Spinola's recent book Portugal and Its Future, calls for negotiations with pro-Portuguese African nationals to end the colonial war in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. Spinola has recently returned from a four-year stint as colonial administrator of the war in Guinea-Bissau. After his return Spinola apparently became convinced that it would be wiser for Portugal to give up its designs for continued overt colonial rule and to opt for a neo-colonial solution. Spinola favors a "Federal Portugal" in which the African territories, figure-headed by Africana sympathetic to Portugal, would enjoy "an almost equal status" with Portugal, but would be administered from Lisbon, with a different color skin to the local administrators. He does not offer to negotiate with the acknowledged major liberation movements in the colonies.

Sources which have monitored MPLA and PAIGC radio broadcasts confirm that both are very skeptical about the change in government in Lisbon. Spinola has never been seen as a great liberator by the liberation movements.

Observers of the colonial situation question whether Spinola can consolidate support for his government in the colonies. It is felt that white settlers in Mozambique may consider Spinola's approach a sellout and look towards South Africa for support in setting up a minority government.

It is also felt that Spinola will quickly move to set up alternatives to the liberation movements in the colonies. These pro-Portuguese alternatives will then be given some neo-colonial type of control.

The Gulf Boycott Coalition believes that Portugal and its overseas territories could presently be considered to be in a neo-colonial situation due to the large amount of foreign investment. The largest American investor, Gulf Oil Corporation, has a $205 million stake in Angola. This represents over 75% of all United States investment in the Portuguese colonies.

On Friday the Coalition sent the following telegram to Mr. B.R. Dorsey, chairman of the Board of Gulf Oil Corporation: "Recent change in Portuguese government dictates a change in Gulf's relationship with the people of Angola. If Gulf's investment in Angola is to be protected negotiations with the liberation movements must begin at once. Gulf cannot afford to become another ITT in Chile."

Further, Gulf Boycott Coalition Advisory Board members such as Congressman Whalen and Diggs have been asked to "do all in your power to see that Gulf does not in any manner, be it openly or through government channels, attempt to interfere in the Portuguese situation to the detriment of the Portuguese colonies."