Twelve people affiliated with the Gulf Boycott Coalition attended the Gulf Stockholders' meeting, April 23rd in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to the meeting the group leafletted stockholders attending the meeting with "Wanted for Robbery: B.R. Dorsey" flyers. They also carried signs stating "Boycott Gulf Help Free Angola".

During the meeting Ms. Elizabeth P. Jackman, a GBC supporter, was nominated to the Board of Directors. Ms. Jackman visited Gulf's Cabinda operation last summer and upon her return wrote a report condemning Gulf's presence in Angola as detrimental to the liberation movements.

Mr. Paul Sheldon, Gulf Vice President for Public Relations, in response to a question stated: "Gulf has no plans to invest in Mozambique." Foreign journals have reported that Gulf was planning such investment.

Approximately 25 other GBC supporters picketed the Gulf Building in downtown Pittsburgh from 10 - 12 a.m., while the stockholders meeting was in progress. The group distributed the same "Wanted for Robbery" leaflet and passed out balloons with Boycott Gulf on them. During the demonstration some of the helium filled balloons were released inside the Gulf building lobby.

The Thomas Merton Peace Center in Pittsburgh organized the demonstrations for the stockholders meeting. Many of those who attended the actual meeting did so for the first time. According to their report: "It was a depressing five hours...The power of the corporation was very obvious." "I felt a heavy sense of fakery; this is a lot of publicity. This is really a suave big business. I even suspected the shareholder who asked the most questions to be planted by Gulf," commented a Gulf shareholder attending the meeting.

In Boston the Boycott Gulf Coalition and the Pan African Liberation Committee jointly sponsored a demonstration outside the Gulf Corp. office at Government Center. Their demonstration was called to coincide with the annual stockholders' meeting in Pittsburgh. The focus of the posters and leaflets handed to passers-by was the role of Gulf Oil in supporting the Portuguese colonial regimes in Africa, especially Angola. In addition, since the Gulf Corp. had just announced first-quarter '74 profits that were 76% higher than in the same period in 1973, the demonstrators were protesting the super-profits being made by the energy monopolies in the face of higher gas, oil and utilities prices for consumers in the U.S.

The group of demonstrators handed out hundreds of pieces of literature and talked to Bostonians passing through Government Center at lunch hour. The response of the people reading the literature was uniformly supportive. At the end of the lunch hour, the group of demonstrators went up to the Gulf Office on the fifth floor of Center Plaza with the intention of putting some questions to the Gulf executive there; the executive was not in his office so the group talked briefly with the secretary, urging that Gulf get out of Africa, and then left.
GULF OIL RESPONSE TO PORTUGUESE COUP

On May 1, 1974 three Gulf Boycott Coalition supporters, Sr. Fidalis, RSM, Rev. Fred Just, OFM Cap., Molly Rush, met with Paul Sheldon, Vice-President for Public Relations, Gulf Oil Corporation to discuss the changing political scene in Portugal.

Mr. Sheldon emphatically denied that there would be, or has been any Gulf involvement in the political situation in either Angola or Portugal. He said they would be insane to try an ITT/Chile type deal. He recognized the possibility of nationalization or even seizure and seemed to deal with it philosophically as just another operational risk.

Mr. Sheldon's position was that someone would be extracting the oil, whichever government was in power. If Gulf pulls out, the Japanese or others would be bidding to come in. And further, that the Cabinda operation, while highly profitable is only a small part of the total Gulf oil interests.

Mr. Sheldon felt that Gulf had acted, partly in response to Church pressure, to greatly increase its percentage of black employees: from 1970 to 1974 "Negro Nationals" employed increased from 18% to 44%, admittedly he agreed that most of them are in the lowest six grades with salaries ranging from $117 to $433 monthly; 133 of the 193 total. In grades 7 to 14 of 173 employees, 29 are "Negro". Salaries in grade 14 range up to $1681. Mr. Sheldon made it clear that the salaries of nearly all expatriates are higher. Of 37 expatriates, only one is black. Mr. Sheldon noted that employees with the relatively higher salaries than the average Angolan, were often faced with conflict with their tribal traditions of sharing.

Due to such enlightened policies Mr. Sheldon expressed some hope that there was a possibility that Gulf might not be expelled in the event of an end to Portuguese colonialism. He stated several times that time is on the side of the liberation forces and stated that Gulf would prefer to operate in a stable, peaceful nation, including one governed by the liberation forces. He expressed some sympathy for such movements, but did say that there was no way of knowing how much support there was for them in Angola. He believes that the situation in Portugal is in no way comparable to Latin American countries, where traditional U.S. sphere of influence/Monroe Doctrine history has prevailed. Thus he saw little likelihood of any overt U.S. action.

It is Mr. Sheldon's belief that there is no alternative to Gulf's continued presence in Angola. Due to the complexity of the Cabinda oil find, Gulf geologists have the advantage, owing to their experience there, over any other company.

Emphatically, Mr. Sheldon denied that Gulf would try to interfere with the political situation in Portugal. He also thought it was just a matter of time before the liberation forces brought independence to the three colonies.

When asked if the Board of Directors follows his advice concerning the Portuguese colonies, Mr. Sheldon responded, "Yes", since he is the most knowledgable on the subject.