



No. 14
Summer
1989

BOYCOTT SHELL

B·U·L·L·E·T·I·N

Pressure Increases on Shell As Mobil Announces Withdrawal

The withdrawal of Mobil Corporation from South Africa was immediately cited by corporate leaders there as putting new pressure on Royal Dutch/Shell to withdraw as well.

"If one pulls out, there will be increasing pressure on the rest of us to do the same," said the chief South African executive of the French oil company, Total.

An analyst on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* as saying, "If Mobil pulls out, where will it all end? The pressure on Shell and British Petroleum to also withdraw will be great."

The withdrawal of Mobil is particularly significant because Mobil has been a key leader in lobbying by U.S.

corporations against the passage of anti-apartheid sanctions by Congress.

Mobil said the reason for its withdrawal was that legislation passed by Congress in 1987 removed tax advantages for companies doing business in South Africa.

Mobil sold its holdings to Gencor, a notorious hard-line employer under the apartheid system.

Many other companies have "withdrawn" from South Africa but maintained licensing agreements or other arrangements which allow them to continue to profit from operations in that country without actually "owning" subsidiaries there.

Mobil has refused to release terms of its sale agreement, but the company

has admitted that the agreement permits Gencor to use the Mobil name for at least five years.

Protests win concessions on method of withdrawal

A strong campaign by anti-apartheid forces both within and outside South Africa won concessions from Mobil concerning its method of withdrawal.

At first, Mobil said it would not negotiate with the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) over terms of the withdrawal. However, strike action and demonstrations—combined with pressure in the U.S.—persuaded the company's U.S. management to nego-

(See *MOBIL WITHDRAWS*, page 3)



INSIDE MEETING: Protesters at annual meeting call for Shell to leave South Africa.

Shell Faces Storm of Protest at Annual Meetings

"Shell Meeting Ends In Uproar" said the headline in the *London Financial Times* after protests dominated the annual meetings of Royal Dutch/Shell's parent companies.

At simultaneous meetings May 11 in London and the Hague, Netherlands, Shell officials spent most of their time defending their insistence on continuing to fuel South African apartheid.

At the London meeting, Shell Transport & Trading Chairman Peter Holmes refused to allow a roll call vote on the company's annual report as required

(See *ANNUAL MEETING*, next page)

(ANNUAL MEETING, from page 1)

by company by-laws. Stockholders had sought the vote as a way of registering disapproval of the report's section on Shell's operations in South Africa.

United Mine Workers political action director Matt Miller met with Holmes and told him that U.S. organizations plan to continue the boycott campaign until Shell withdraws totally from South Africa.

Holmes acknowledged to Miller that the international boycott has been a "formidable" force.

At the meeting of Royal Dutch Petroleum in the Netherlands, South African religious leader C.F. Beyers Naude called on Shell to "totally withdraw from South Africa after consultations with the relevant trade unions so that they can tell you why, when, and how this should happen."

Naude answered Shell's propaganda claims that polls show black South Africans oppose sanctions and disinvestments. If people are asked whether they favor sanctions that would result in loss of their jobs, they obviously are going to answer no, Naude said.

When the poll asks whether people favor sanctions that would increase pressure to end apartheid, however, the majority answers "with a clear and unequivocal yes," he said.

World Council of Churches Urges Shell To Negotiate Terms of Withdrawal

An international strategy session convened by the World Council of Churches (WCC) has urged Royal Dutch/Shell to negotiate the terms of its withdrawal from South Africa with South African workers and their unions.

The call came following a meeting of church and anti-apartheid organizations from 11 countries in Amsterdam May 9-11 called by the WCC to coordinate boycott actions.

Participants in the conference released to the news media an open letter to Royal Dutch/Shell chairman L. Van Wachem spelling out specific concerns about the way Shell should withdraw from South Africa "so as to hasten the end of apartheid and provide basic protection for Shell employees in the process."

The international coalition asked Shell to sever all ties to South Africa by . . .

- Selling all of its holdings there.
- Retaining no ties such as "license, franchise, technology, and distribution agreements."
- Requiring that no new Shell technology, parts, or services be supplied to

any entities in South Africa.

- Requiring that the use of the Shell name and trademarks be discontinued in South Africa.

- Insuring that no Shell oil is supplied to South Africa either directly or indirectly.

The group also said Shell should negotiate immediately with its South African employees and their unions concerning the terms of withdrawal. In addition, Shell should fully disclose the agreements of sale both to the public and to its own employees in South Africa.

Organizations attending the WCC meeting discussed ways of "broadening and intensifying" the international boycott. Among the many activities discussed in addition to encouraging individual consumer boycotts were boycotts of fuel oil sales by bulk users, passage of legislation in each country to cut off South Africa's oil supply and end tax advantages for corporations operating in South Africa, and spreading the boycott to additional countries

(Continued at right)



PEACEFUL PROTEST: Demonstrators who blockaded a Shell laboratory in Amsterdam were attacked by police.

Shell Denies Report It Will Withdraw

Royal Dutch/Shell has denied a report by the government-owned South African Broadcasting Corporation that the company plans to withdraw from South Africa.

Following the radio news report in April, Shell spokesman Peter Stroink told Reuters news service that he could "deny categorically that there is any foundation in the report that we plan to disinvest from South Africa."

(Continued from left)

where Shell has a sizeable market share.

While sponsoring the international strategy session the World Council of Churches also released a new report, "Shell Shock," which documents Shell's involvement in fueling apartheid.

The existence of apartheid "erodes the basic tenets of the Christian faith because it is the only system of racial oppression, state terrorism, and horrendous injustice which seeks to ground its justification in the Holy Scriptures," the booklet notes.

Groups Rejecting Shell Sponsorship

Organizations in many countries are refusing to be used by Shell to clean up the company's image—even if it means turning down millions of dollars in Shell funds to sponsor projects.

In Norway, for example, the national soccer association has turned down a reported \$10 million agreement in which the association would have called its top division the "Shell League" and would have engaged in other activities to promote Shell's name.

Top Norwegian soccer players announced they would not play if the agreement with Shell was implemented.

In another example, an organization of community centers in Great Britain pulled out of a recycling program because Shell sponsored it. The organi-

"Recently I was asked: 'Can you never see Shell moving?' The answer to that is: no, I would not say that at all. There are factors beyond our control which could force us to leave. For example, if the Dellums Bill were promulgated in its original form, it would force out not only Shell but the whole of the international oil business."

—Former Shell South Africa Chairman John Wilson in an interview shortly before he retired

zation said it wanted to support recycling, but not in a way that also bolstered Shell's community reputation.

United Nations Panel Asks Stronger Oil Curbs

A United Nations panel chaired by two oil-producing countries—Norway and Nigeria—has called on the U.N. Security Council to impose a mandatory embargo against the supply of petroleum products to South Africa.

The panel's recommendations came after it held hearings on the effect of the current voluntary ban. Shell came under heavy criticism by witnesses before the panel. Company officials, like executives of other oil multinationals, refused to appear to answer questions.

The panel's report said there is a "lack of effective cooperation on the part of certain powers that have op-

posed the oil embargo primarily to protect transnational corporations."

The United States and Great Britain both have used their veto power in the Security Council to prevent mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa.

Student Sit-In Works at Florida State U.

A sit-in at Florida State University has persuaded the school to cut its financial ties with Shell Transport & Trading, one of Royal Dutch/Shell's parent companies.

The FSU Foundation, a fund-raising arm of the university, owned stock in Shell.

Students entered the offices of the FSU Foundation to demand sale of the stock, and vowed to remain until their goals were met. Later the same day, the foundation decided to sell.

(MOBIL WITHDRAWS, from page 1)
tiate and reach a settlement.

Mobil agreed to pay \$2.3 million in compensation to its workers and to bind Gencor to abide by the union contracts and agree that there will be no layoffs for a year and no adverse changes in working conditions.

Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers President Joseph Misbrenner and United Mine Workers President Richard

Trumka had sent a letter of protest to Mobil Chairman Allen Murray urging him to meet with the CWIU.

Misbrenner and Trumka also urged Mobil to withdraw completely, "severing all ties to South Africa, including, but not limited to license, franchise, and distribution agreements; transfer of technology, personnel, services, or spare parts; the use of the Mobil name and trademark; and the supply of crude oil."

A Shell-Free Zone Declaration

A Shell-Free Zone is a union, church, synagogue, school, campus, community organization, job site, local business, or other organization which does not purchase or use Shell products. By signing and returning this declaration to us as soon as possible, your organization can strengthen the international boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell.

We plan to publicize these declarations on December 10, Human Rights Day, so send them in by then if possible.

Please copy this blank form and distribute to other organizations which might be interested.



The government of South Africa, in defense of the policies of apartheid, has maintained a state of emergency since July 20, 1985, thereby increasing military and police actions in the black townships, has restricted the operation of democratic organizations working to end apartheid, and has denied the majority of South Africans their basic human rights.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Reverend Allan Boesak, the South African Council of Churches, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa have called upon U.S. organizations working for justice and democracy in South Africa to join in the international campaign to end all support for the government of South Africa and its policies of apartheid.

Royal Dutch/Shell, through its subsidiary, Shell South Africa, provides the South African police and military with fuel vital to their efforts to enforce apartheid.

The Government of South Africa defines oil as a "munition of war," and any oil company operating in South Africa is governed by a law which allows the South African government to operate the company's facilities in time of national emergency.

Major U.S. religious, civil rights, labor and anti-apartheid organizations have responded to the call from leading South Africans to join the campaign to end apartheid and suspend business with Royal Dutch/Shell, until Royal Dutch/Shell, in consultation with its workers and their unions, disinvests from and severs all ties with South Africa.

Therefore, the _____
declares itself a Shell-Free Zone and will neither purchase nor utilize Shell products until Royal Dutch/Shell, in consultation with its workers and their unions, disinvests from and severs all ties with South Africa.

Please record specific information about your institution below:

Organization _____

Address _____
Street City State ZIP

Telephone Number _____ Contact Person _____

Please send a copy of this signed declaration to: **Shell Boycott Campaign, 900 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005.**



Coordinated Protests Held Across U.S.

A wide variety of coordinated local protests were held in March to promote the Shell boycott.

Examples included . . .

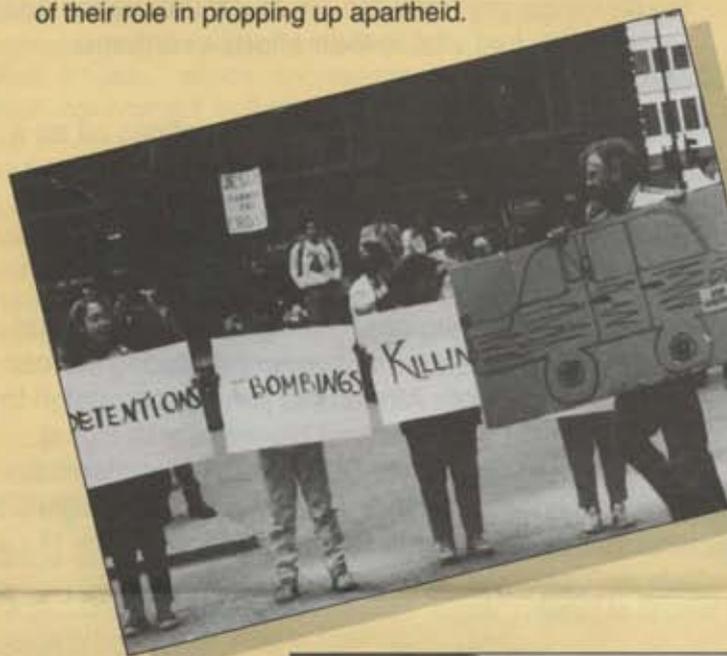
- Leafleting at Shell stations in Norfolk, Virginia; Dallas, Texas; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

- Demonstrations at Shell offices in New Orleans, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

- A "Walk for Justice" in Chicago.

- A Lobby Day in New York City in support of local legislation to ban city purchases from companies, including Royal Dutch/Shell and its subsidiaries, because of their role in propping up apartheid.

New Orleans



Dallas

Chicago



Seattle

Help Put The Boycott On The Air

You can help fight apartheid by arranging with local radio stations to air the new Boycott Shell radio spots.

The spots feature celebrities such as Jesse Jackson, Ed Asner, Tyne Daly, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, Danny

Glover, Little Steven, Peter Yarrow, and members of the rock groups Aerosmith, Boston, and Heart.

The spots can be aired as public service announcements (PSAs) or as paid ads sponsored by your local group.

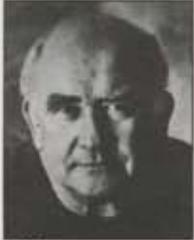
To order a cassette with 18 spots to choose from, use the coupon below. For more information, call (202) 842-7352.



Tyne Daly



Jesse Jackson



Ed Asner



Bonnie Raitt



Danny Glover



Peter, Paul, and Mary



Little Steven

Materials you need to promote the Shell boycott in your community are available by using the coupon below. They include a short video, "The American Connection," and slide/tape show (also available in video format), "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell."

QTY.	SHELL BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN MATERIALS	COST
	Bumper sticker: <input type="checkbox"/> #____ "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" <input type="checkbox"/> #____ "Save U.S. Jobs, Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 30¢ for over 200.	
	Buttons: "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 30¢ for over 200.	
	Wallet-size "Discredit Card": A reminder of your commitment to boycott Shell products. \$2.50/hundred.	
	Basic 16-page booklet: 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.	
	Basic leaflets: <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.	
	Campaign slide/tape show: A 9-minute show featuring boycott leaders and the president of the South African National Union of Mineworkers. Also available in video format. \$40 each. No rentals.	
	"The American Connection": A TV documentary on Americans and South Africa that features the boycott. 1/2-inch VHS format. <input type="checkbox"/> #____ 10 minute version. <input type="checkbox"/> #____ 27-minute version. \$40 each. No rentals.	
	Workplace stickers: "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 10¢ for 1-100, 5¢ for over 100.	
	Poster-size "Discredit Card": \$5 each. (Free with orders of \$250 or more.)	
	Poster for stores: "No Shell Products Sold Here" and why. 50¢ for 1-200, 15¢ for over 200.	
	"Boycott Shell" Bulletin: 40¢ for 1-50, 25¢ for over 50.	
	Radio spot cassette with 18 celebrity ads: \$2.	
<i>Please add 25 percent for postage and handling.</i>		

ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Organization _____

Phone _____

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) 842-7352.

\$ _____ Total Amount Due

AFSCME

1625 L Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 1937
Washington, D.C.

