FOR RELEASE APRIL 24

CITIZEN-CHURCH COALITION CALLS FOR GULF OIL TO LEAVE ANGOLA
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A citizen and church coalition called upon the Gulf Oil Corporation today to withdraw immediately from its operation in the Portuguese ruled enclave of Cabinda (Angola) and to discontinue its support for the Portuguese economic and military effort to perpetuate colonialism," according to George Houser, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa and one of the coordinators of the Gulf Oil campaign.

In "An Open Statement to the Annual Meeting of Gulf Oil Company, 1970" (see attached), signatories addressed their demands to coincide with the stockholders' meeting being held at Carnegie Music Hall on Tuesday, April 28 in Pittsburgh. The Statement calling on Gulf to get out of Angola was signed by the following church organizations: Council for Christian Social Action, United Church of Christ; Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam; Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa; Africa Committee, National Committee of Black Churchmen; Southern Africa Committee, University Christian Movement; and the Executive Board, American Friends Service Committee.

Individual signatories representing the academic, civil rights, church and peace fields include: John W.P. Collier, Jr., Department of Home and Foreign Missions, African Methodist Episcopal Church; James Duffy, author of "Portuguese Africa; Harry Edwards, organizer of the black athletes' Olympic campaign; the Rev. J. Clinton Hoggard, Board of Foreign Missions, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; Igal Roodenko, War Resisters' League; William X. Scheinman, Mack Busnell, Edelman, Inc. (Member, New York Stock Exchange); Arne Sovik, Executive Secretary, Board of World
Missions, Lutheran Church in America; Eugene L. Stockwell, Assistant General Secretary, World Division, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church; and Franklin H. Williams, Phelps Stokes Fund and former U.S. Ambassador to Ghana.
(full list of signatories attached).

Mr. Houser explained in reference to Gulf's activities in Angola, "Gulf is one of the major American investors in Portuguese Africa. Gulf provides essential financial, moral and political support to Portuguese colonialism. At a time when Portugal has 150,000 troops in Africa waging war to prevent the people of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea from gaining independence, Gulf is Portugal's colonial partner. This can be substantiated by simply noting that Gulf's payments to the government of Portugal equal approximately one half of Portugal's annual war budget in Angola."

Tim Smith, Assistant for African Affairs, Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, announced at the same time that church representatives as well as a number of concerned citizens are planning to attend Gulf's annual stockholders' meeting to raise the issue of Gulf in Angola. "We must not allow Gulf Oil and its executives to let financial matters totally supercede human issues. Gulf Oil has a responsibility to publicly explain the facts of its Angola and southern African involvement. Although Gulf Oil has denied it is a 'political' organization, there is no question that its oil production in Angola gives tremendous political support to the mother country, Portugal, and that it has a political effect on millions of Africans struggling to end the anachronistic colonial system under which they live. The economics of colonialism is a political issue - the United Nations has said it, history has proven it. Gulf cannot deny it. As churchmen and concerned citizens we feel it is our right and obligation to present our position to Gulf's stockholders and to the public at large."

It was announced that part of the challenge to Gulf Oil on April 28 would be the nomination of alternate candidates to the Board of Directors, and the introduction of pertinent issues from the floor. (see enclosed statement & signatories) ************
An Open Statement to the Annual Meeting of Gulf Oil Company, 1970

We, concerned citizens and representatives of organizations, address this statement and appeal to the Gulf Oil Company on the occasion of the annual stockholders' meeting on April 28, 1970. We call upon the Gulf Oil Company to withdraw immediately from its operation in the Portuguese-ruled enclave of Cabinda, a part of the West African colony of Angola. Our reason for this is that Gulf is giving substantial support to Portugal in her war against the African people of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea (Bissau) to keep them indefinitely in colonial status. Gulf supports Portugal's refusal to recognize the right of the people in the Portuguese colonial areas of Africa to self-determination and independence. Too small and poor a country to control a rebellious empire without help, Portugal depends on outside assistance such as the support received from U.S. corporations like Gulf.

Portuguese domination of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau) has been characterized by economic exploitation of the country and its people; the practice of a forced labor system; the denial of political expression to almost all the people; and the perpetuation of educational practices which have resulted in an illiteracy rate of more than 90%.

We believe the people in the Portuguese colonies (which Portugal calls "overseas provinces") have the right to freedom and independence. Popular movements in all the Portuguese colonial areas are now fighting for this freedom. The aid which Gulf gives to Portugal in defiance of United Nations resolutions, the Organization of African Unity and the just aspirations of the people of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau) must end.
We make these charges in demanding that Gulf Oil disengage from the Cabinda oil operation:

1. The Gulf Oil operation, by giving financial support to Portugal, subsidizes Portugal's war against the African people. It is estimated that this year, 1970, the Cabinda oil operation will produce 150,000 barrels per day which will provide Portugal with royalty payments of $15,000 a day. The expected proceeds to the Portuguese government, when one adds in not only royalties but also income tax, mining development fund and other proceeds, amounted to almost 20 million dollars in 1969 according to a United Nations working paper. This was almost half of Angola's total military budget in 1969.

2. The Cabinda oil operation, while helping the Portuguese government, does not enhance the economic well being of the African people. Out of hundreds of staff positions, most jobs have been reserved for Portuguese citizens and for technical and engineering personnel recruited from Gulf subsidiaries in the rest of the world, eliminating Africans almost completely. The revenue is shared between Gulf and the Portuguese colonial government, and little trickles through to the people in social services or local improvements. This is the nature of colonialism.

3. The Cabinda operation further strengthens Portugal's ability to wage its war by providing a strategic product. Cabinda is expected to become the sixth largest oil producer in Africa, and can provide all of the oil needed by Portugal. In 1969, Portugal imported approximately 75,000 barrels per day. By the end of 1970 Cabinda production alone should be twice that amount. Furthermore, under the agreement with Cabinda Gulf, the Portuguese government has retained the right to take all crude oil that is produced or the equivalent
in refined products should her military or political needs dictate it. Angola's Governor General recently observed, "The machine is the infrastructure of modern war and machines cannot move without fuel. Hence the valuable support of Angolan oils for our armed forces."

In addition, the Cabinda strike will ultimately be able to provide oil for South Africa, the one necessary commodity not yet discovered by the apartheid regime.

4. The operation of Gulf Oil in Cabinda, where the struggle for liberation predates the oil strike, is dependent for its security upon the military power of the Portuguese government. The arrangement made with Portugal in 1966 and in 1968 stipulates that the Portuguese government "agrees to undertake such measures as may be necessary to ensure that the company may carry out its operations freely and efficiently . . . to prevent third parties from interfering with the company's free exercise of its contractual rights." This means that a major American corporation relies on the colonialist Portuguese government to protect it from the very people who should be served by the natural resources of their own country.

The Gulf Oil operation in Cabinda represents the U.S. and its people in the eyes of Angolans. American resources and prestige are on the side of the exploiter. Therefore, we, as concerned citizens and representatives of organizations, demand that the Gulf Oil Company divest itself of its involvement in Cabinda and other Portuguese colonies and discontinue its support for the Portuguese economic and military effort to perpetuate colonialism. It is this support which makes possible the suppression of the African national liberation movements which are fighting to bring freedom and independence to their countries.
SIGNATORIES to the "Open Statement to the Annual Meeting of Gulf Oil Company, 1970"

(Organizations for identification purposes only)

Africa Committee, National Committee of Black Churchmen
American Committee on Africa
Simon Obi Anekwe, New York Amsterdam News
Placide Bazosha, North American Secretary, World Student Christian Federation
Paul R. Booth, Adlai Stevenson Institute
Robert S. Browne, Black Economic Research Center
Rev. Gilbert H. Caldwell, Ministerial Interfaith Association
Elsia F. Carrington, Community Participation Educational Programs, Inc.
Ronald H. Chilcote, University of California (Riverside)
Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam
Council for Christian Social Action, United Church of Christ
Winifred F. Courtney, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, ACOR
John W. P. Collier, Jr., A.M.E. Church, Dept. of Home and Foreign Missions
The Rt. Rev. C.E. Crowther
George M. Daniels, United Methodist Board of Missions
Ralph Diggs, Administrative Secretary, War Resisters League
The Rev. Albert R. Dreisbach, Jr., Exec. Director, Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity (ESCRU)
James Duffy
Harry Edwards, University of California (Berkeley)
Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa
Executive Board, American Friends Service Committee
Nat Hentoff, writer
The Rev. J. Clinton Hoggard, Board of Foreign Missions, A.M.E. Zion Church
Farrell Jones, Director, Nassau County Commission on Human Rights
John Marcum, University of California (Santa Cruz)
David McReynolds, Field Secretary, War Resisters League
Frank C. Montero, American Committee on Africa
Richard Riseling, Dept. of International Affairs, American Baptist Convention
Igal Roedenko, Chairman, War Resisters League
Ruben Pedersen, Secretary for Africa, Board of World Missions, Lutheran Church in America
William X. Scheinman, Mack, Bushnell, Edelman, Inc., Member New York Stock Exchange
George W. Shepherd, Editor, Africa Today
Social Action Committee of Pennsylvania West Conference, United Church of Christ
Southern Africa Committee, University Christian Movement
Arne Sovik, Executive Secretary, Board of World Missions, Lutheran Church in America
Richard P. Stevens, American Committee on Africa
Eugene L. Stockwell, Assistant General Secretary, World Division, Board of Missions, United Methodist Church
Peter Weiss, President, American Committee on Africa
Franklin H. Williams, Phelps-Stokes Fund

Victor G. Reuther, International Affairs Director, United Automobile Workers
Aaron E. Henry, National Board, NAACP, SCLC; President, State Conference, NAACP of Mississippi