

American Committee on Africa

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AMERICAN COMMITTEE ASKS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST GULF OIL

Cooperation between U.N. member states and private organizations against the Gulf Oil Corporation and other foreign economic interests in southern Africa was urged today by George M. Houser, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa in a statement to the Fourth Committee of the United Nations.

Gulf Oil is already the target of a boycott campaign by the Committee, which protests its activities in the Cabinda enclave of Angola. The statement points out that through revenues received from Gulf's production of oil in Angola, Portugal gains foreign exchange essential for financing the colonial war in Africa. In support of the campaign, Mr. Houser cited the U.N. General Assembly resolution of December 12, 1969 which calls on states to take immediate measures to put an end to all practices which exploit the territories and peoples under colonial rule, and the resolutions of the 1970 meeting of the Organization of African Unity which asks its member states to take action to check the economic supporters of southern African white minority regimes.

Such a campaign, either against Gulf or against a similarly situated corporation, would show the way toward implementation of General Assembly resolutions which through the years have opposed colonialism and South African apartheid.

"ACOA cannot successfully challenge Gulf alone," Mr. Houser said. "We can raise issues, asking support from other countries where Gulf does business and countries that see the threat such an international corporation represents to those who are fighting for freedom in Africa."

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The statement concluded with an appeal to "let willing governments and voluntary organizations start to implement the economic counter action against colonialism and apartheid that the United Nations has called for....The U.S. corporations tell us they are not interested in politics - only in profits. Let us take the profits from them."