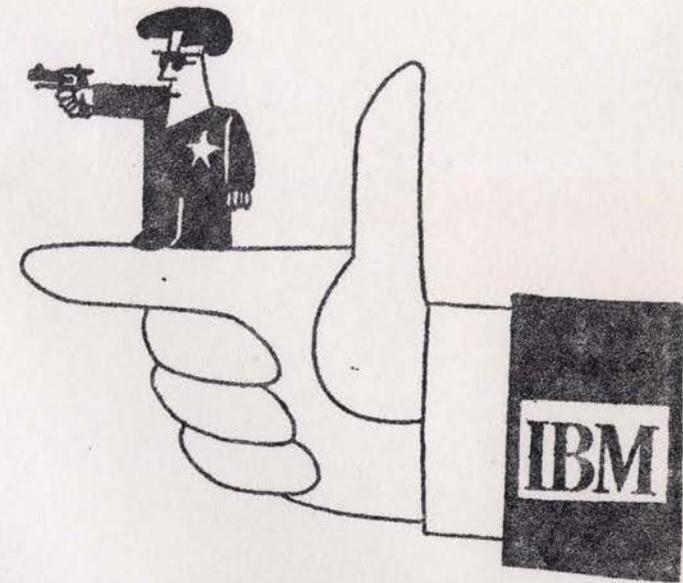


IBM & SOUTH AFRICA: Forces for Racism, Not Change!



"The future is a moving target," states a recent IBM South Africa ad, "Improve your aim with new IBM processors": a fitting claim since IBM acknowledges that it sells computers to the South African Department of Defense. As 1976 Senate Hearings document, this is only one of many private and public uses of IBM computers which support and maintain apartheid. Other users include the major government Departments of the Interior, Education, and Pensions, the Atomic Energy Board, and even the local administering agencies of the whole system of apartheid administration, the Bantu Administration Boards. In 1965, IBM bid for -- but lost -- the contract to supply computers for South Africa's notorious "passbook" system, which directly controls Black South Africans.

But what does IBM claim? IBM Chairmen Frank Cary told the April 1977 annual meeting that: "We would not bid any business where we believe that our products are going to be used to abridge human rights. However, we do not see how IBM or any other computer manufacturer can guarantee that they will not be. The facts of the matter are that we do not and can not control the actions of our customers...."

It is thus impossible to even claim, as IBM management does, that the uses of its computers are limited to those applications consistent with human rights.

IBM further contends that withdrawal from South Africa would mean the abandonment of the hope of progress for their few Black employees. In fact, however, the only way that there will be any true hope for the advancement of Black workers and a solution to South Africa's problems will be through the complete elimination of apartheid. IBM, by allowing their products to be used under apartheid, is acting to strengthen apartheid, and by so doing intensifies the violence and suffering that lie ahead on the road to freedom in South Africa.

