

How IBM supports Apartheid

IBM had \$450 million worth of sales in South Africa last year, with a large proportion going to the South African government.

Over the years IBM has equipped numerous apartheid-enforcing agencies and military branches of the South African government. IBM's contributions have made possible the computerization of the population registration system, the defense forces' computerized command and control system, and the automation of the supply of ammunition and arms to troops in illegally-occupied Namibia. IBM is crucial to South Africa's burgeoning arms industry.

IBM now claims not to sell computers to the military or apartheid-enforcing agencies of South Africa. But the fact is, as long as IBM products are commercially available in South Africa, they will be available to the government there to use as it wants.

The South African government has a long record of using third parties, front operations, and clandestine maneuvers to circumvent embargoes and acquire computers and other technology. And South African law permits the government to seize any strategic products it needs in an emergency. It also requires every computer in the nation to be registered with the government, and prevents disclosure of any strategic transaction or seizure.

IBM admits that once its products are exported to South Africa, it has no control over how they are used. IBM also admits it has sold equipment manufactured overseas to South African governmental agencies embargoed under U.S. law.

IBM's attitude was clear last year when it lobbied for numerous loopholes in U.S. sanctions against South Africa. Under those sanctions IBM is free to continue its extensive sales to provincial and municipal authorities, who work closely with police in the day-to-day administration of apartheid laws. IBM is free to continue its extensive sales to South African military contractors, like African Explosives and Chemical Industries, Ltd., which manufactures nerve gas and napalm, and where the two largest explosives factories in the world are run by IBM computers.

The South African people are rising up against the most brutal and oppressive regime in the world. Their basic demand is one person-one vote in a unitary South Africa. The government totally rejects the possibility of this, and refuses to negotiate a peaceful settlement, instead intensifying its strategy of "total war."

By remaining in South Africa, IBM helps the South African government hold out, and helps it carry out its "total war" against its own people. IBM must end its support for this genocidal regime by ending all operations in South Africa.

IBM OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA!

(The Univ. of Chicago Coalition for Divestment is an organization of students, faculty and staff demanding that UC divest of the \$100 million it has invested in South Africa-linked companies. IBM is the largest holding in UC's portfolio --UC has over \$16 million invested in IBM. IBM Chairman John R. Opel is on the Board of Trustees of UC.)