

St. Louis Committee on Africa
Box 2975
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1968:

COMMITTEE URGES TEXACO TO END SUPPORT OF RACISM IN AFRICA

Texaco stockholders meeting in St. Louis today were urged to prevent their company from continuing to give crucial support to the white racist regimes in southern Africa. Richard Terry Koch, a spokesman for the American Committee on Africa and the St. Louis Committee on Africa, representing a stockholder in the Texaco Company, stated that Texaco not only furnishes much of the fuel needs of South Africa, the only state since Nazi Germany to be based directly on a racist doctrine, but also furnishes, through the Capetown refinery recently built by Caltex at a cost of \$35 million, much of the oil crucial to the maintenance of the illegal white regime in Rhodesia. Supplying oil to Rhodesia was called contrary not only to United Nations Orders imposing mandatory sanctions against Rhodesia but contrary also to stated American policy. The representative of the Committee on Africa reminded the Texaco stockholders that President Johnson, hardly an enemy of the American oil industry, has said to the Organization of African Unity, "We will not support policies abroad that are based on the rule of minorities, on the discredited notion that men are unequal before the law." Between them, Mobil and Caltex furnished 48% of South Africa's refining capacity, according to the spokesman.

To illustrate how far from the positive American position Texaco's involvement in South Africa has pushed it, the Committee on Africa spokesman cited a Caltex advertisement in South Africa which reads: "Ahead of Caltex lie lonely years of search and, perhaps disappointment, or the discovery which will free South Africa, for all time, from dependence on outside oil supplies." As Stanley Meisler has written in the Los Angeles Times (Jan. 8, 1968), "Business involvement in South Africa produces a pro-South Africa lobby in the United States." Texaco stockholders were urged not to permit their company to contribute further to such an unworthy end.