



No. 6

# BOYCOTT SHELL

## B · U · L · L · E · T · I · N

## Major Stockholders Demand Special Meeting On South Africa Role

Major stockholders are mounting their greatest challenge ever to Royal Dutch/Shell's continued involvement in South Africa.

A campaign to force a special shareholders meeting to vote on withdrawal from South Africa was launched March 31, and within three weeks it drew the support of a series of major institutional investors, including public employee pension funds, churches, and banks such as Mellon Bank and Wells Fargo.

The campaign was announced at a news conference March 31 by Harrison Goldin, New York City comptroller, and Gordon Smith, treasurer of the American Baptist Churches Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

The campaign is aimed at Royal Dutch Petroleum, the Dutch company which owns 60 percent of Royal Dutch/Shell. (Shell Trading and Transport, a British company, owns the other 40 percent. Shell Oil Co., in turn, is a subsidiary of Royal Dutch/Shell.)

Royal Dutch has refused to allow its shareholders to vote at regular annual meetings on whether the company and its subsidiaries should continue to provide essential fuel and other products to apartheid South Africa, a country which does not have its own oil.

Now, investors have discovered that the company's bylaws require a special meeting to vote on any petition signed by owners of 10 percent of the outstanding shares.

Campaign organizers have already received pledges of support from owners of nearly 12 million shares, and are now seeking similar pledges representing the 14.8 million more that are needed.

Among those making pledges are the following: New York City Employees' Retirement System, New York City Teachers' Retirement System, New York City Police Pension Fund, New York City Fire Department Pension Fund, Ameri-

can Baptist Foreign Mission Society, United Methodist Church Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Church (USA), California Public Employee Retirement System, California State Teachers Retirement System, New  
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**LAUNCH PETITION:** The campaign for a special Royal Dutch stockholders meeting is explained at a news conference by (from left) Gordon Smith, American Baptist Churches; Harrison Goldin, New York City comptroller, and Ken Zinn, United Mine Workers.



**CAMPAIGN GAINS SUPPORT:** The decision by Mellon Bank to support the call for a special stockholders meeting on Shell's role in South Africa is announced to the news media by Jack Yoedt, executive director of Service Employees Local 29 which represents Mellon workers in Pittsburgh. Yoedt was flanked by Father Richard Zellk of the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Corporate Responsibility and Dennis Brutus, an exiled black South African writer and professor.



**CWA DEMANDS JUSTICE:** Members of the Communications Workers of America joined local protests on April 4 and held their own union-wide day of boycott actions on April 11. Here, CWA members leaflet a Shell station in Birmingham, Ala.

## April Actions Build For International Protests That Begin May 9

Anti-apartheid coalitions in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and most countries in Western Europe will conduct coordinated protests beginning May 9 and leading up to the May 14 stockholders meetings of Royal Dutch/Shell's parent companies.

Royal Dutch Petroleum and Shell Transport & Trading hold simultaneous annual meetings, one in the Netherlands and one in London.

In the U.S., local actions on May 9 will follow up on protests held throughout the country in April.



**BANKS UNDER FIRE:** Major banks which own Royal Dutch stock and have not yet supported the petition for a special meeting to withdraw Royal Dutch/Shell from South Africa have faced protests at their own shareholders meetings in recent weeks. Protests shown here targeted J.P. Morgan (left) and Bankers Trust (right).



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York State Teachers Retirement System, United Christian Missionary Society, Oblates of Mary Immaculate-Southern Province, Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor, and the Diocesan Investment Trust of the Diocese of Newark.

Pledges of support from Mellon Bank and Wells Fargo followed meetings between boycott supporters and corporate officials held only days before the banks' annual stockholders meetings were to be held. Both companies are among the ten largest stockholders in Royal Dutch.

Boycott supporters picketed the annual meetings of other Royal Dutch stockholders, such as J.P. Morgan, Bankers Trust, and Irving Bank, which had not signed on to the petition.

At the Irving Bank meeting, boy-

cott representatives used the nomination of John Bookout, Shell Oil's chief executive officer, to the bank board of directors as an opportunity to question Irving Bank's failure to press for a Shell withdrawal from South Africa. It was at this meeting that Bookout learned for the first time that Wells Fargo had agreed to support the call for a special Royal Dutch stockholders meeting.

Some of the major shareholders who have been asked to support the campaign include: Prudential Insurance, E.I. DuPont, First Interstate Bancorp, Merrill Lynch Asset Management, Travelers Corp., State Street Boston Corp., American National Bank & Trust of Chicago, First City Bancorp of Texas, First Pennsylvania Corp., First Union National Bank of North Carolina, The Boston Co., IDS Mutual, San-

ford Bernstein & Co., Fayez Sarofim & Co., and W.H. Newbold's Son & Co.

The resolution which would be considered at the special shareholders meeting calls on the Royal Dutch board to "take immediate steps to terminate all operations in South Africa and announce publicly to the South African government that it plans to leave as soon as possible."

Sponsors of the special meeting petition said that they are "deeply concerned about our rights as shareholders to affect company policy."

They also noted that Royal Dutch/Shell is the target of an "international consumer boycott and divestment campaign" and "stands to lose sales and suffer in its public image unless it withdraws from South Africa."

# Europeans Oppose South African Coal

Royal Dutch/Shell's continued role in the apartheid economy has helped spark a movement in Europe to stop the purchase of South African coal.

At a news conference April 22, European unionists called on the countries which make up the European Community (EC) to stop buying coal produced in South Africa.

The news conference was called by the Miners International Federation (MIF), the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICTFU), and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

The groups said their affiliates would pressure governments and coal consumers such as public utilities to end South African coal purchases.

Royal Dutch/Shell is co-owner of the Rietspruit coal mine in South Africa which exports up to 6 million tons per year to Italy, Spain, West Germany, and other countries.

Shell also helped finance the massive Richards Bay coal export terminal in South Africa which has allowed the country's international coal sales to increase by ten times since 1975.

"The European Community's attitude, and also that of Japan, is at variance with the action taken by the United States, Canada, Denmark, France, and Australia, who have unilaterally imposed embargoes on South African coal," the groups said in a joint statement.

"By importing this coal, the European Community, Japan, and other countries are supporting exploitation in South African mines and, indeed, the whole repressive system of apartheid.

"The export of coal provided South Africa with \$1.3 billion of foreign exchange in 1985. Black coal miners' wages in South Africa average 286 rands per month, approximately \$143, and their working conditions are unsafe and oppressive."

In an earlier letter to boycott supporters, MIF general secretary Jan Olyslaegers noted, "The South African National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has clearly stated that it supports comprehensive economic sanctions as a vital means of contributing to the abolition of apartheid."

In other Shell boycott activities in Europe...

- **In Denmark**, several cities and municipal bus systems have announced that they will not purchase Shell products until Royal Dutch/Shell withdraws from South Africa.

The largest newspaper in Denmark is now refusing to publish advertisements from Shell.

Meanwhile, demonstrations have been held at gas stations in at least 15 different cities and towns.

- **In Norway**, the capital city of Oslo has decided not to renew its fuel supply contract with Shell unless the company withdraws from South Africa by August 1.

- **In the Netherlands**, 25 municipalities—including Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Haarlem, and Utrecht—have endorsed the boycott.

Church leaders, members of the Dutch Parliament, and other anti-apartheid activists have joined in several "Phone Shell" actions in which they barraged company headquarters with calls urging withdrawal from South Africa.

- **In Ireland**, coordinated boycott actions were conducted throughout the month of March, including appeals to bulk consumers such as local governments, universities, churches, and other institutions to stop using Shell products.



**BROAD SUPPORT IN U.S.:** Members of dozens of organizations took part in April demonstrations and leafleting, including the Electronics Workers and Letter Carriers (top), Service Employees and Mine Workers (above), and American Federation of Teachers (left).

# BOYCOTT SHELL: Spread the News

You can help make sure the Boycott Shell Campaign continues to be brought to the attention of the general public.

For example, now that major stockholders are calling for a special meeting to vote on continued Shell involvement in South Africa, you can help organize newsworthy events to put pressure on other large stockholders to support that call.

Other newsworthy local events might involve well-known community leaders or other celebrities in demonstrations at Shell stations or at conferences at which Shell officials appear.

You also can help publicize the boycott by using the bumper stickers, leaflets, slide/tape show, and other materials listed below.



QTY.	SHELL BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN MATERIALS	COST
	<b>Bumper sticker:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ "Save U.S. Jobs, Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 15¢ for over 200.	
	<b>Buttons:</b> "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 30¢ for over 200.	
	<b>Wallet-size "Discredit Card":</b> A reminder of your commitment to boycott Shell products. \$2.50/hundred.	
	<b>Basic 16-page booklet:</b> Gives the basics on apartheid, why Shell is a boycott target, and Shell's involvement in South Africa. 75¢ for 1-100, 50¢ for over 100.	
	<b>Basic leaflets:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ A leaflet to use while picketing, explaining the campaign. <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ A leaflet for particular use in labor meetings and conferences. <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ A leaflet for outreach to sympathetic general audiences. \$5/hundred.	
	<b>Campaign slide/tape show:</b> A 9-minute show featuring boycott leaders and the president of the South African National Union of Mineworkers. Also available in video format. \$100 each to buy, \$50 to rent.	
	<b>Workplace stickers:</b> "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 10¢ for 1-100, 5¢ for over 100.	
	<b>Poster-size "Discredit Card":</b> \$5 each. (Free with orders of \$250 or more.)	
	<b>Poster for stores:</b> "No Shell Products Sold Here" and why. 50¢ for 1-200, 15¢ for over 200.	
	<b>"Protect Our Jobs" brochure:</b> How the Shell campaign helps preserve coal jobs in the U.S. \$5/hundred.	
	<b>"Boycott Shell" Bulletin:</b> 40¢ for 1-50; 25¢ for over 50.	
	<i>Please add 25 percent for postage and handling.</i>	

## ORDER FORM

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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Make checks payable to Boycott Shell Campaign and send c/o United Mine Workers of America, 900 15th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.**

**Phone: (202) 842-7350**  
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