

U.S. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS & THE APARTHEID POLICE

South Africa has the highest per capita prison population in the world. 40% of these prisoners are pass law violators, whose only crimes were being Africans without white government permission to be where the police found them.

By November, more than 1000 people had been detained without trial in 1984, and 2000 more had been arrested for political "crimes" under the Internal Security Act. At least 150 have been killed by the police. In September, 500 were arrested en masse for attending the funeral of a demonstrator. In October, 7000 troops and police surrounded three black townships experiencing unrest and arrested hundreds, most for pass violations. This is the worst police state situation in the country since the 1976 Soweto Uprising, when more than 1000 school-children and others were massacred by the police during demonstrations against the segregated and inferior "Bantu Education" system.

GENERAL MOTORS (Yale Holdings: \$21,021,770) and FORD (Yale Holdings: \$6,520,500) use a loophole in the 1978 arms embargo to continue selling trucks to the police. They are also designated strategically important Key Point Industries, which during a general uprising could be taken over by the apartheid regime. White workers would be made to form white commando units to fight black insurgents.

IBM (Yale Holdings \$53,112,543) has a computer in the prison system. It also automates the "coloured" and Indian segments of the pass system. IBM claims that these are not repressive purposes because the prison computer "only" handles financial matters and the pass computer is not for Africans. IBM bid for and lost the African pass computer job.

CONTROL DATA (\$1,304,712) supplied the disc drives for the British computers which do automate the African pass system. In 1983, 262,908 pass arrests were made, a 27.6% increase over the 1982 figure, continuing a yearly upward trend. Control Data's chairman has stated, "The little bit of repression that is added by the computer in South Africa is hardly significant." Yale only recently acquired Control Data, after they had pledged to investigate Coalition Against Apartheid allegations of the strategic aid other computer companies: they already owned provide the apartheid regime.

TEXACO (Yale Holdings: \$3,644,925), MOBIL (Yale Holdings \$5,235,324), and EXXON (\$13,915,616) must, by law, supply the police all the oil they require. The South African Official Secrets Act, which classifies oil as a munition of war, prohibits them from revealing to anti-apartheid investigators, their own parent companies, or the U.S. government, the amount of oil they sell the military and police. In 1981, Mobil **told** its shareholders, "Total denial of supplies to the police and military forces of a host country is hardly consistent with an image of responsible citizenship. The great bulk of the work of both the police and military forces in every country, including South Africa, is for the benefit of all its inhabitants. All have a basic interest in the maintenance of public order and safety. A policy of non-sales to military and police would deny resources for response to grave emergencies, for the apprehension of common criminals, and for the protection and security of all individuals and property including that of the corporation."

In 1978, MOTOROLA (Yale Holdings: \$847, 462) defended its sale of radios to the police by stating that they only sold them their second best, the top of the line being reserved for the Chicago police department.

GOODYEAR (Yale Holdings \$2,804,679) and FIRESTONE (\$375,000) sell tires to the military and police despite the arms embargo because a loophole allows the sale by U.S. companies of products they manufacture outside U.S. boundaries.

In 1962, the government initiated the "local content" program, requiring 65% of every car to be made locally by 1976. As a result, between 1960 and 1970, component industry investments rose from \$18.6 mil. to \$210 mil., saving \$1.7 million in foreign exchange annually. When the managing director of Goodyear was asked about his increased investment at a time when the Sharpeville Massacre had caused foreign investors from other countries to withdraw capital, he replied that American business in South Africa must inevitably be "counter revolutionary" and actively oppose radical political change.