



INTERFAITH CENTER ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

A Sponsored Related Movement of the National Council of Churches
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Chronology of events concerning oil sanctions-busting

- 21 June 1976 Publication of 'The Oil Conspiracy' in New York.
- Late June '76 Announcement that US Treasury Department will carry out an investigation into allegations in 'The Oil Conspiracy' concerning Mobil.
- 2 July 1976 Testimony re 'The Oil Conspiracy' before UN Sanctions Committee.
- 2 August '76 Major article re 'The Oil Conspiracy' in the 'New York Times'.
- 17 September Lengthy testimony by Mobil before Senate Subcommittee on African Affairs.
- 24 December Ghana government issues statement referring to "incontrovertible evidence" that has just become available which compels it to condemn the activities of Mobil, Caltex, Shell, BP and Total ('the five oil companies') in supplying Rhodesia.
- mid-Jan. '77 President Kaunda of Zambia first condemns the five oil companies for supplying Rhodesia, in a speech in Nigeria.
- 29 Jan. '77 President Kaunda again speaks out on the subject on opening a meeting of the OAU Liberation Committee in Lusaka.
- c. 29 Jan. Joseph Garba, Nigerian Foreign Minister, makes a similar point in a speech in Lagos, adding: "if the Western oil monopolies continue to ignore the UN decisions against apartheid, we will take the appropriate measures."
- 31 January President Kaunda raises the issue (with some force) in a meeting with Ivor Richard, Chairman of the Geneva Conference on Rhodesia, and then writes to Prime Minister Callaghan.
- 1 March The Haslemere Group (London) and the Anti-Apartheid Movement jointly publish 'Shell and BP in South Africa', which uses information from 'The Oil Conspiracy' to show how these two companies supply Rhodesia.
- Early March Considerable UK press publicity arising from the above report.
- 8 March President Kaunda calls for a tightening of oil sanctions at the Afro-Arab summit in Cairo.

10 March United African National Council (UANC) of Zimbabwe sends a memorandum on oil sanctions-busting to Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and calls for new hearings based on new evidence which it says it can produce.

late March Rumours of threats by Nigeria to freeze local assets of Shell and BP if they don't stop supplying Rhodesia.

3 April President Kaunda announces in a press interview that Zambia intends to sue the five oil companies for supplying Rhodesia.

8 April Dr. Owen, British Foreign Secretary, announces that he is setting up an official inquiry to investigate allegations that Shell and BP are supplying Rhodesia.

9 April Dutch government announces that it will assist with this inquiry.

10 April The British-based multinational company 'Lonrho' reveals that it has gathered evidence of sanctions-busting by the five oil companies, and is planning to sue them for this.

5 May Shareholder resolution re oil sanctions-busting debated at Mobil annual general meeting.

16 May Robert Mugabe, leader of ZANU, criticises Western governments for permitting their oil companies to supply Rhodesia.

16 May Sonny Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary General, calls for oil sanctions to be extended to cover South Africa if Western companies based there do not stop supplying Rhodesia.

17 May US Treasury releases its report on the allegations against Mobil.

21 May The Maputo Declaration in Support of the Peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe, released at the end of a UN-sponsored conference in Maputo, calls for a tightening of oil sanctions, and asks governments to prevent their oil companies from supplying oil to Rhodesia directly or indirectly.

22 May Ambassador Andrew Young says that the US government is "prepared to lean on the oil companies" concerning supplies to Rhodesia.

23 May US General Accounting Office report criticises the US Treasury and other agencies for assigning too low a priority to the

implementation of sanctions.

31 May Lonrho formally starts legal proceedings against the five oil companies.

9-15 June 33 heads of state debate oil sanctions-busting at the Commonwealth Conference in London; this is one of the two or three most important issues debated.

c. 12 June Joshua Nkomo, leader of ZAPU, condemns the five oil companies for sanctions-busting.

15 June 33 Commonwealth leaders call for stronger enforcement procedures re oil sanctions.

16 June British Foreign Secretary David Owen implicitly concedes in TV interview that South African subsidiaries of British and American oil companies are involved in supplying Rhodesia.

c. 28 June OAU Political Committee expresses full support for Zambia's legal moves against the five oil companies.

30 June UN Security Council unanimously calls for further effective measures to tighten the scope of sanctions against Rhodesia.

2 July Zambia writes to the five oil companies formally letting them know of its intention to sue them.

c. 5 July OAU heads of state (at OAU Conference) agree to send a six-nation ministerial commission to 'oil producing countries' to ask them to halt oil supplies to Rhodesia and South Africa.

25 July The Haslemere Group (London) testifies before the UN Sanctions Committee regarding oil sanctions-busting.