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Four groups in Ithaca opposed to Portuguese colonial oppression in Africa announce the beginning of a campaign to boycott all Portuguese products sold in Ithaca.

The boycott supports a nation-wide effort called by several national organizations, including the New York-based American Committee on Africa. The purpose of the boycott is to deny the Portuguese government the American dollars with which it buys napalm, helicopters, and bombs for use against the peoples of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and Mozambique.

Over a decade ago peaceful attempts to obtain independence in all three countries were answered with Portuguese bullets. Since then, armed liberation movements have freed over 1/3 of both Angola and Mozambique from Portuguese control, and on September 24, with 3/4 of its territory liberated, Guinea-Bissau declared its total independence from Portugal.

Portugal's effort to maintain colonial control in Africa has borrowed heavily from the techniques used by the U.S. government in Indochina, including napalm, defoliation, forced relocations, and wholesale reprisals against villages. Portuguese counter-insurgency specialists have been trained in the U.S., and NATO weapons provided by the U.S. government stock Portuguese arsenals. Furthermore, to finance its wars in Africa, Portugal relies heavily on U. S. investment -- Gulf Oil, for example, pays 60% of the cost of repression in Angola. Portugal also needs the American dollars earned by its exports, cotton, coffee -- and wine.

As a primary target in Ithaca, the four organizations have chosen the Portuguese product ALLEGRIA WINE. The focus on ALLEGRIA reflects the fact that ALLEGRIA'S parent, Heublein Wines of Hartford, Connecticut, selected the city of Ithaca as the test market area for ALLEGRIA WINE. Heublein, a multi-million dollar corporation that owns Kentucky Fried Chicken among other properties, has saturated Ithaca with a radio advertising campaign on stations WVBR and WTKO, and has hired Nelson Research Associates of Chicago to make a market survey by telephoning local residents.

The four organizations calling for the boycott feel that the ALLEGRIA offensive not only demands a response, but presents a unique opportunity to expose Portuguese colonialism and its vulnerable dependence on U.S. support. The boycott will be part of an educational effort in the coming months, which will include speakers, films, and other actions.

To launch the campaign, local liquor stores have been asked to discontinue the sale of ALLEGRIA WINE. Already East Hill Supply and College

Liquor have given verbal assurances that they will respect the ALLEGRIA boycott. North Campus Union at Cornell has pledged to discontinue buying all Portuguese wines. The sale of ALLEGRIA will be protested by picket lines at stores continuing to sell it, starting October 5.

Portugal has been terrorizing Africa for over 500 years. It was the first colonial power to reach Africa in its search for slaves, and it seems determined to be the last to leave, insisting that 13 million Africans are really "Portuguese". The following statistics indicate the Portuguese government's real attitude towards Africans: in Guinea-Bissau Portugal furnished only one doctor for every 100,000 Africans, causing an infant mortality rate of 60%; in Angola barely 100 out of 5,000,000 Africans received higher education, and the majority of the population was forced at gunpoint to work on Portuguese-owned plantations; in Mozambique Portugal used the same forced-labor system and paid an average agricultural wage of only \$50 a year.

The four organizations sponsoring the ALLEGRIA boycott are the Southern Africa Liberation Committee (SALC), formed by students and teachers at Cornell University; the Attica Brigade, a national student anti-imperialist organization with a chapter at Cornell; the African Students Association at Cornell; and the African Liberation Solidarity Committee, a community group.