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FREE SOUTH AFRICA ...

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# NEWS AFL-CIO



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

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FOR RELEASE:

FOR RELEASE 10 A.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1986

## AFL-CIO Declares Boycott of Shell Oil

The AFL-CIO today is launching a nationwide consumer boycott against the products of Shell Oil Co., a division of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, as part of an international labor movement protest of the multinational corporation's repressive treatment of black workers in South Africa and its refusal to take positive action against apartheid.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council approved the action by mail ballot at the request of federation President Lane Kirkland and United Auto Workers' President Owen Bieber who chairs the AFL-CIO Committee on South Africa. The boycott is the latest step in the federation's long-standing program to support the eradication of apartheid.

"The AFL-CIO has been deeply involved in the effort of South African trade unionists to target companies for consumer boycotts where action can bring about improved conditions and help to end apartheid," Kirkland and Bieber said. "Shell has earned this consumer boycott by its corporate misdeeds in South Africa. The AFL-CIO will continue the protest until Shell ends its mistreatment of its Rietspruit miners and joins in the international struggle to make apartheid a past practice in South Africa.

"We hope this boycott will encourage Shell to disinvest in South Africa as part of the broad effort to pressure the South African regime to end the apartheid system," Kirkland and Bieber said.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has supported a policy of compelling disinvestment in multinational companies in the energy sector in South Africa, as well as firms identified by the black trade union movement of South Africa as being in violation of internationally accepted labor standards.

The AFL-CIO Shell boycott comes in response to a request from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions with which the AFL-CIO is affiliated. The ICFTU and its Coordinating Committee on South Africa have been working closely with black trade unions in South Africa to select targets for campaigns including boycotts in support of that country's black labor movement.

The ICFTU's call for international action against Shell was initiated by South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers and the Miners International Federation following a strike at a Shell-owned coal mine and increased union-busting and repressive activities on the part of Shell's mine management.

The NUM dispute with Shell started early in 1985 when black miners walked out of the Rietspruit mine (owned jointly by Shell and Barlow Rand, a South African conglomerate) to attend a memorial service for a miner killed on the job. When the company

suspended four shop stewards, the workers struck for four days. The company then fired 86 miners and, according to the NUM, refuses to permit union meetings, intimidates its workers and refuses to allow shop stewards any access to union members.

In the United States, Shell sells gasoline sold under its own name at retail service stations, and it distributes a variety of other petroleum and natural gas products.

The AFL-CIO Shell consumer boycott will be directed against products of the company and not against individual merchants selling these products. Union members will be urged to cut in half and send to AFL-CIO Headquarters their Shell credit cards.

Kirkland said labor's campaign against Shell products would be coordinated by a new National Labor Committee on South Africa with co-chairmen Bieber and Rich Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers of America.

Other members of the committee include the following presidents of AFL-CIO affiliated unions: Gerald W. McEntee, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; John J. Sweeney, Service Employees International Union; Lynn R. Williams, United Steelworkers of America; Frank Drozak, Seafarers International Union; Albert Shanker, American Federation of Teachers, and Frederick O'Neal, Actors and Artistes of America, and John Mara, secretary-treasurer, AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department.

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(For further information, contact Murray Seeger, AFL-CIO Department of Information, 202/637-5010.)



# NEWS Release<sup>1</sup>

United Mine Workers of America • 900 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20005

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 9 -- United Mine Workers of America President Richard L. Trumka today announced that the UMWA will join the "Free South Africa Movement" and the AFL-CIO in a nation-wide boycott of Royal/Dutch Shell.

"Royal/Dutch Shell's supply of oil to the South African government is a strategic pillar supporting the apartheid regime," Trumka said.

"Throughout our 96-year history, the UMWA has fought for social justice and human rights while opposing racism and discrimination. This battle against apartheid represents a reaffirmation of those principles."

The Mine Workers President stated that the union was responding to appeals from the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa, the Miners' International Federation, and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions because of Royal/Dutch Shell's strategic support for apartheid and the company's union-busting actions at its Rietspruit mine in South Africa.

"This boycott gives all Americans an opportunity to strike a blow against oppression," Trumka said.

Royal/Dutch Shell also co-owns the largest coal export terminal in South Africa, as well as a coal mine that exports approximately 6 million tons per year, in direct competition with U.S.-mined coal.

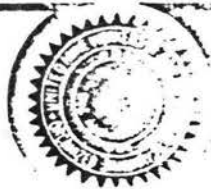
"Royal/Dutch Shell exports its coal, mined under slave-labor conditions, to compete on the world market," Trumka continued.

"This undercuts American-mined coal, and threatens the standard of living of miners here. By supporting this boycott, we are simultaneously helping our black brothers and sisters in South Africa fight the apartheid system and protecting our jobs and our way of life here."

"So today we call on all Americans: Stop Apartheid in South Africa. Protect Jobs in the U.S.A. Boycott Shell!"

# United Mine Workers of America

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INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



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STATEMENT BY RICHARD L. TRUMKA

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

9 January 1986

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA, I AM PROUD  
TO JOIN WITH THE AFL-CIO AND THE FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT IN  
SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AND BOYCOTT OF ROYAL  
DUTCH/SHELL.

FOR 96 YEARS THE UNITED MINE WORKERS HAS FOUGHT FOR SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. FROM OUR VERY BEGINNING WE HAVE  
OPPOSED RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION. OUR SUPPORT OF THE BATTLE  
AGAINST APARTHEID REPRESENTS A REAFFIRMATION OF THE HISTORIC  
PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR UNION WAS FOUNDED. IT IS, THEREFORE,

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FITTING, JUST AND PROPER THAT I SPEAK OUT TODAY AS A UMWA COAL MINER.

ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL'S SUPPLY OF OIL TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS A STRATEGIC PILLAR SUPPORTING THE APARTHEID REGIME. WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL AND OTHER LARGE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE ECONOMIC FOUNDATION OF APARTHEID WILL COLLAPSE.

BECAUSE OF THIS STRATEGIC SUPPORT AND ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL'S UNION-BUSTING OPERATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA'S COAL MINES, THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE MINERS' INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION, TO WHICH THE UMWA IS AFFILIATED, AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS HAVE CALLED FOR WORLDWIDE ACTION AGAINST THIS CORPORATION. WE ARE HERE IN RESPONSE TO THOSE CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY. IN CALLING FOR A NATIONAL BOYCOTT OF ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL THE FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT AND THE AFL-CIO HAVE GIVEN ALL AMERICANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST OPPRESSION.

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FURTHERMORE, MY UNION, IN ENDORSING THIS CAMPAIGN,  
UNASHAMEDLY ACTS IN ITS SELF-INTEREST. ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL  
EXPORTS COAL, MINED UNDER SLAVE LABOR CONDITIONS, FROM SOUTH  
AFRICA. THROUGH ITS INVESTMENTS IN APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA,  
ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL HOPES TO UNDERMINE COAL MINED IN NORTH AMERICA  
AND TO LOWER THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF COAL MINERS IN THIS  
COUNTRY. AS A RESULT, THROUGH OUR ACTION HERE TODAY WE ARE  
SIMULTANEOUSLY HELPING OUR BLACK BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SOUTH  
AFRICA THROW OFF THE YOKE OF OPPRESSION AND HELPING OURSELVES TO  
DO THE SAME RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

IT'S NOT JUST COAL, HOWEVER. OTHER PRODUCTS MADE IN SOUTH  
AFRICA-- FROM STEEL TO CANNED FRUIT-- ARE CONTINUING TO FLOW  
INTO THIS COUNTRY UNDERCUTTING AMERICAN JOBS. AMERICAN  
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS HAVE CHOSEN TO INVEST IN SOUTH AFRICA  
FOR HUGE PROFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR COMMUNITIES HERE AT  
HOME. THUS AMERICANS HAVE TWO REASONS TO STOP THE APARTHEID  
SYSTEM BY BOYCOTTING SHELL. FIRST, APARTHEID ENSLAVES BLACK  
SOUTH AFRICANS, AND, SECOND, APARTHEID COSTS AMERICAN JOBS.



IT IS FITTING THAT ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES IS UNITED IN SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT CALL TO ACTION TO END APARTHEID. NINETEEN EIGHTY-FIVE MARKED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION-- THE C.I.O.-- LED BY FORMER UMWA PRESIDENT JOHN L. LEWIS. THE FOUNDING OF THE C.I.O. WAS A WATERSHED EVENT FOR AMERICAN ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE MARCH TOWARDS JUSTICE IN THIS COUNTRY.

SO, TOO, IN SOUTH AFRICA WE HAVE RECENTLY WITNESSED A WATERSHED EVENT FOR ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID: THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS. COSATU, HALF-A-MILLION STRONG, IS SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW C.I.O. ITS PRESIDENT, TOO, IS A MINeworker. COSATU HAS BOLDLY DEMANDED THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN CORPORATIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. OUR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, LIKE ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL, THAT EXPLOIT BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS IS A DIRECT SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE BLACK UNIONS THERE WHO ARE IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM.



SO TODAY WE CALL ON ALL AMERICANS: STOP APARTHEID IN SOUTH  
AFRICA. PROTECT JOBS IN THE U.S.A. BOYCOTT SHELL!

# THE SCIENCE OF NEWS

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# AFGE NEWS

For more information, contact:  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9, 1986

## STATEMENT ON BOYCOTT OF ROYAL DUTCH-SHELL PRODUCTS

Kenneth T. Blaylock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, issued the following statement concerning the labor union boycott of Royal Dutch-Shell products in labor's campaign to eliminate apartheid in South Africa:

"The American Federation of Government Employees strongly supports elimination of the repressive and inhuman system of apartheid and has called for the institution of majority rule in South Africa.

"AFGE members have mandated this union to call on the South African government to fully recognize the basic, unqualified trade union rights of every worker in that country, irrespective of race and to end the banning of the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

"AFGE joins with the rest of the American labor movement to call for a boycott of Royal Dutch-Shell products as a protest of the anti-worker practices of that company in South Africa. Up to now, oil companies in South Africa have strictly adhered to that country's racist laws.

"We cannot remain idle while Royal Dutch Shell workers in South African mines are fired without just cause, while they face constant intimidation, while their shop stewards are suspended, and while they are denied union meetings and access to their stewards.

"Multinational companies operating in South Africa under the apartheid system must learn that they will face serious consequences throughout the rest of the world for their support of that country's racist policies."

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFL-CIO

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# LABOR NEWS

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FOR RELEASE JANUARY 9, 1986

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## IAM JOINS ROYAL DUTCH/SHELL BOYCOTT

William W. Winpisinger, President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM & AW), issued the following statement today:

The barbaric treatment of its workers in South Africa by Royal Dutch/Shell is grim evidence that the battle for social justice and economic dignity for working men and women and for their families is unending.

Unfettered corporate greed worships at the altars of high profits and higher dividends, with little respect for the broken bodies and broken lives of those whose skill, sweat and sacrifices are expended to mold those corporate icons.

Royal Dutch/Shell and others of that ilk are basic underpinnings of apartheid. On behalf of the 850,000 members of our union, I proudly join this global campaign to root out that odious practice.