

# CWIU fights to strengthen disinvestment for workers

Mobil workers are engaged in major battle over a fair disinvestment procedure with Mobil.

The petrol giant wants to "pull out" of S. A. Trade unions, churches and UDF all support disinvestment. This strategy became necessary to help end apartheid.

This view is in the COSATU resolution of 1987. But the COSATU resolution demands that companies which pull out must negotiate exactly how the pullout happens. This is to protect the rights of workers. It also to make sure that that the pullout is not just a bluff: getting new management while the real owners stay the same.

Now Mobil workers are demanding that Mobil negotiates. The key issues workers want to negotiate are severance pay and union rights if a "new" company takes over the management.

Last year CWIU workers put forward

the following demands to 41 oil companies:

- a year's notice of plans to disinvest
- negotiations with the union on:
  - ▣ severance pay or compensation;
  - ▣ money from the sale must be put in a trust for union members;
  - ▣ a guarantee of full employment and service conditions for workers.

Since 1987 CWIU has been approaching multinationals, including Mobil, calling for negotiations around disinvestment procedures. Mobil denied that they might pull out - even in their last letter in February 1989. Then suddenly in April they announced in the newspapers they were getting out before the end of this year. The union called Mobil "a bunch of liars".

Now CWIU is taking strike and protest action. They are demanding full reasons for the pullout. It also wants

all the details, but the company is ducking and diving. They have agreed to negotiate some issues and the union has suspended strike action for a week.

The struggle of the CWIU is the struggle of all workers in multinational companies. Workers have built these companies and made them rich while we suffered exploitation. Now many of these companies are pulling out because the economic situation is bad and the anti-apartheid struggle is hotting up.

Workers are not against disinvestment. We are against "disinvestment" behind the backs of workers. We are against disinvestment that makes profits for bosses and attacks the needs of workers. We are against the the idea that "disinvesting" bosses have no obligations to meet before they go. We are for building our own control over the wealth we have created - the disinvesting capitalists should give our factories back to us if they are against apartheid.



## It's a bosses life...

☆ Anglo American, Sanlam, SA Mutual and Rembrandt controlled 77.7% of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 1988

☆ According to PE Consulting services many senior SA executives (big capitalists) are earning around R750,000 per year

☆ Anglo's Minorco and Consgold spent over R150 million - on things like lawyers, accountants and publicity - in Minorco's failed effort to take over Consgold

☆ An anonymous capitalist wrote

to the Star saying : " I am 55 years old, in very good health, married and with no dependants. My financial position is as follows: A bond free house; R400,000 invested in tax free endowment policies; various endowment and life insurance policies; R20,000 in retirement annuities; R80,000 in a business provident fund; R12,000 in unit trusts... I intend working for another 10 years...What do you suggest I do with the approximately R1 million I will be receiving then ?" If only workers could have "problems" like these!



**Unite and fight for a living wage!**