

WORLD BRIEFS

AFRICAN FUEL CORP LISTS ON NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

NEW YORK (GIN) — The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)—the world's biggest equities marketplace—added a South African company to its list last week. The South African Coal, Oil and Gas Corp. (Sasol) has listed with NYSE as part of its bid to shake off its reported association with South Africa's racist apartheid regime. Nonetheless, the past continues to dog Sasol; South Africans workers in the United States said they are launching a discrimination suit against chemical company, Fluor, which, they say, dates back to work Fluor did for Sasol during the apartheid regime. After this was announced, Sasol's share price fell 3.2 percent on the Johannesburg stock exchange, where the company retains its primary listing. When Sasol joined the 2,800 other companies currently listed on NYSE last Wednesday, it brought the total number of African companies there up to nine: eight of them are South African, and the other — Ashanti Goldfields Co.—is Ghanaian.

CUBAN TEACHERS TRAIN THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTERPARTS

JOHANNESBURG (GIN) — Continuing its long-standing relationship with sub-Saharan Africa, Cuba sent more than 20 school teachers to South Africa to train local educators—mainly in rural areas—in teaching methods, mathematics, science and technology. The Cuban teachers, who began their six-month visit last Monday, will be teaching other teachers not students, so no South African jobs will be lost. Local teaching unions have supported the program, says Ghaleeb Jeppie, director of international relations in the Department of Education. An advance party of seven Cuban teachers has spent a year in South Africa to assess the needs of the country. Now that the full program is underway, Jeppie says, "We are hoping to see an improvement in the national examination results, and also hope that [the Cubans] could help inculcate a professional work ethic." For decades Cuba has been sending teachers, as well as doctors and engineers, to South Africa, Angola and other African nations. While the United States backed the apartheid regime in South Africa and apartheid forces that tried to invade Angola in the 1960s, Cuba supported Blacks in both countries and Cuba's leader, Fidel Castro, sent thousands of troops to fight to keep Angola free from South African apartheid.

HIGH COURT AFFIRMS POLLUTION RULING AGAINST SHELL

LAGOS, Nigeria (GIN) — An appeals court here has refused to overturn a multi-million dollar fine against Shell Petroleum Development Co. Nigeria Ltd. for a major oil spill at a their flow station in the Ogoni lands of Rivers States that polluted creeks, rivers and vegetation. After the explosion at their flow station in Yorla in July 1994, the Duboro and Baen communities in Ogoni land of Rivers State, sued Shell claiming damages for the untold loss they claim to have suffered as a result of the spillage and the consequent damage to the communities creeks, rivers and vegetation. The court awarded them the sum of 255.8 million naira (about \$2 million) in damages. It is not the first fine Shell has been ordered to pay for oil spills in Nigeria. In June 2000, a judgment against Shell in the amount of \$40 was ordered for a spill in 1970 in Ogoniland. Shell also faced charges for breach of contract from an international firearms suit-trading firm.

MBEKI: APARTHEID VICTIMS TO GET \$3,900 EACH

JOHANNESBURG (GIN) — South Africa will pay \$3,900 in reparations to each of the victims of apartheid who were involved in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), said President Thabo Mbeki. To avoid frightening off investors, Mbeki ruled out proposals — made by TRC Chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu — for a one-off tax on businesses and individuals who profited from the racist apartheid regime. Mbeki also condemned a series of discrimination lawsuits launched from the U.S. against South African companies. He said that no such judgments passed in other countries would be enforced in South Africa. As Archbishop Tutu requested, the payments will be made promptly. Mbeki says within this financial year. The TRC was set up in 1996 to investigate apartheid-era human rights abuses. It promised amnesty to perpetrators who confessed their roles and could prove they were politically motivated.

INTERNATIONAL

S. Africa won't back apartheid lawsuits

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - Thandi Shezi thought she had long exorcised her demons after her rape and torture by apartheid state police 15 years ago.

But her memories came flooding back this week when President Thabo Mbeki said his government would not support lawsuits by apartheid victims against corporations accused of propping up the former racist regime.

"I am so disappointed in my government. In 1988, I was detained, raped, electrocuted and tortured before being thrown into solitary confinement for a year - all for democracy," said the former activist for the now ruling African National Congress.

"Now the government turns its back on the very people who made it possible for them to be where they are today," she told The Associated Press.

President Thabo Mbeki said his government would not support lawsuits by apartheid victims against corporations accused of propping up the former racist regime.

Mbeki said his government would rather make a one-time payment of \$84.5 million to the 22,000 victims who testified at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission about apartheid-era human rights abuses. This is \$300 million less than the reparations recommended by the Commission. "This amount means nothing. We need to pursue the corporations that prolonged the life of the apartheid government and try to find sustainable solutions," said Shezi.

Since Mbeki's announcement in Parliament this week, Shezi, 37, has resumed counseling for the trauma she suffered in her ordeal.

She works as an organizer for the Khulumani Support Group, an organization suing 21 foreign corporations for their alleged support of the apartheid state.

Last November, the group filed charges in U.S. Federal Court in Brooklyn, claiming the defendants "acted with deliberate indifference to the well-being of the African population."

Khulumani alleges that over three decades the defendants aided the South African government "in the commission of crimes of apartheid, forced labor, genocide, extrajudicial killing, torture, sexual assault, unlawful detention and cruel, unusual and

degrading treatment."

The companies include U.S.-based JP Morgan Chase, IBM, Caltex Petroleum, Ford and General Motors.

South Africa's apartheid regime began in 1948 and ended in 1994 with the country's first democratic elections.

A sum of money sought by the lawsuit will only be determined once the corporations have disclosed details of the extent of their business with the apartheid government.

The Khulumani case is part of a wider initiative by the Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign, launched in 1998. The group lobbies for the cancellation of apartheid debt and compensation from companies that profited from the racist system.

Their case is being made in the United States because (See *Apartheid*, Page 15)

Ancient necropolis found in Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - French archaeologists unearthed a necropolis filled with rock-hewn tombs that are more than 4,000 years old, Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities said Saturday.

Culture Minister Farouk Hosni said the necropolis near

the pyramids of Saqqara, about 15 miles south of Cairo, contained tombs from ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom, which lasted from 2400 BC-2100 BC.

The writings on one tomb identified it as belonging to Hau-Nefer, a priest who served in the mortuary temple

of King Pepi I, Hosni said.

Egypt's chief of antiquities, Zahi Hawass, said Hau-Nefer's tomb was decorated with colored scenes featuring the tomb's owner in different poses with preferred deities and family. One well-preserved, colored limestone relief showed the priest with

his wife, Khuti, and their 13 children, he said.

Hawass said the French team from the Institut Francais d'Archeologie Orientale also found 12 complete limestone statues of another priest, named Khnum-Hotep, in seated and standing positions.

U.S. firm to give AIDS drugs to Africa at cost

NEW YORK (GIN) — An American company will provide its anti-retroviral drug, used to treat HIV/AIDS, to all African countries at no profit.

Starting by June, California-based Gilead Sciences will make its once-a-day Viread medication available to treatment programs in the world's 68 poorest countries—including all Africa and at least 15 other countries—at just the cost of manufacturing, administering and distributing the drug.

"The Gilead Access Program was created in consultation with experts and advocates," says Gilead president John Martin, "with the objective of making Viread available where the need is greatest and in a way that best addresses the treatment landscape in the developing world."

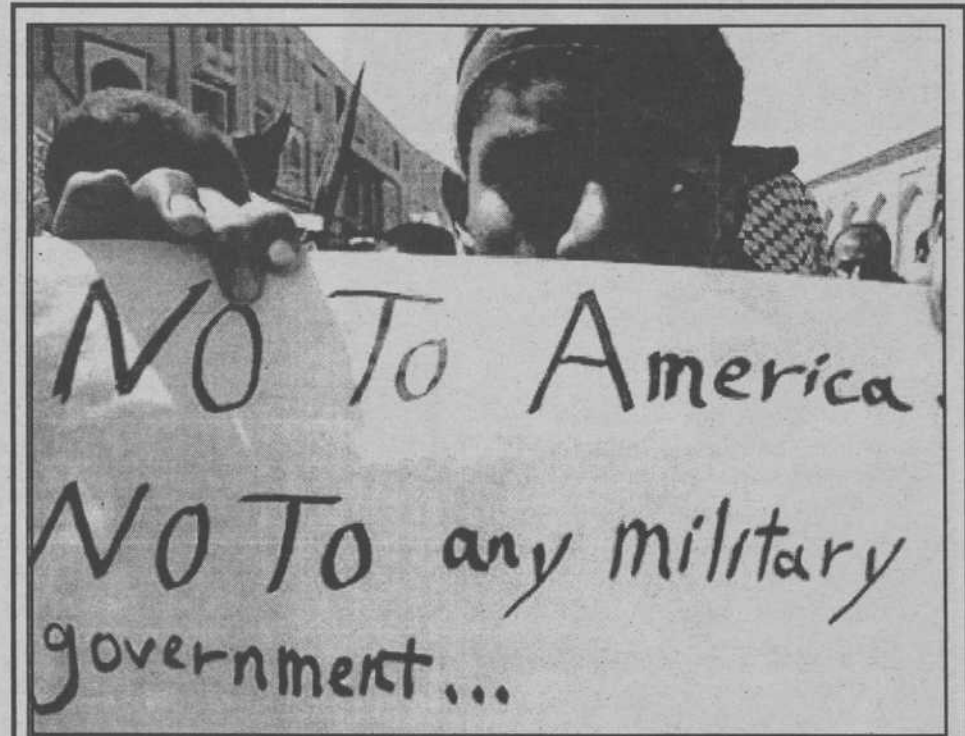
Africa is by far the region worst affected by AIDS—the continent is home to 70 percent of the adults living with HIV in the world and 80 per-

cent of the children.

Some countries, such as Zimbabwe, have more than

30 percent of their population infected with HIV/AIDS. Not only does Africa have

the highest number of infected people, it also has the fastest rate of transmission.



SHIITES JUST SAY NO

An Iraqi Shiite Muslim from a Hawza, a Shia religious school, displays an anti-American poster as several thousand Shiites chanted slogans against a US-imposed government in the second day of such protests coinciding with a major pilgrimage in the holy city of Kabala, central Iraq.