

PETROLEUM IN ANGOLA 2002

1. REPORT ALLEGES US ROLE IN ANGOLA ARMS-FOR-OIL SCANDAL

As the US Congress continues its investigation of the Enron affair, human rights advocates are calling for a probe of the Bush administration's possible role in another energy and influencepeddling scandal. According to a recent report by the British-based non-governmental organization Global Witness, Bush and US oil interests have ties to some of the key figures in the arms-for-oil scandal which has devastated Angola.

Known as "Angolagate" in France, the scandal involves arms-for-oil deals between French businessman Pierre Falcone, the head of a firm called Brenco International; his colleague Jean- Christophe Mitterand, the son of the former French president; and a Russian-born Israeli named Arkadi Gaydamak.

According to "All the Presidents' Men," a March 25 report on Angolagate by Global Witness, Gaydamak funneled billions of dollars in arms and oil-backed loans to Angola's government in return for lucrative oil contracts with Western oil companies. Falcone and Gaydamak, relying on the special access that Mitterand had to the Angolan government, managed to transfer some \$463 million in arms to Angola.

Source: *RESISTANCE OILWATCH NETWORK BULLETIN Number 30 – July 2002*

2. ANGOLA FINES CHEVRON FOR OIL SPILLS

LUANDA, Angola (AP) " Angola fined Chevron Texaco Corp. \$2 million for environmental damage from offshore drilling spills, the government announced Friday.

The Ministry for the Environment and Fisheries said in a statement that a spill earlier this month from the San Francisco-based company's offshore platforms in northwest Angola polluted beaches and forced fishermen to stop work.

A government investigation found that the spills were the result of leaks from decayed pipes used to transport crude from the platforms, the statement said. Company officials were not immediately available for comment, but said recently inadequate pipes would be replaced.

Angola is sub-Saharan Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria, with most of the production off shore.

The country exports a total 800,000 barrels of oil daily and provides more oil to the United States than does Kuwait.

Source: *RESISTANCE OILWATCH NETWORK BULLETIN Number 31 – August 2002*

3. ANGOLA FINES CHEVRON \$2 MLN FOR POLLUTION – AGENCY

LISBON - Angola has fined U.S. oil major ChevronTexaco Corp \$2 million for causing environmental damage, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported last week.

The fine is the first the African nation has levied against an oil company operating in its waters, a spokesman for the Ministry of Fisheries and the Environment said.

The fine was levied because of pollution of beaches and damage to fishing in the Cabinda region, one of the former Portuguese colony's main offshore oil regions, Lusa said.

ChevronTexaco has been notified of the fine, with the knowledge of the Supreme Court and the Petroleum Ministry, Lusa said.

Investigations in May and June showed that Cabinda oil spills were caused by obsolete tubing. ChevronTexaco has promised to invest \$108 million to replace pipes, Lusa said.

Last week, ChevronTexaco said it reduced crude production in Angola by about 55,000 barrels per day or 12 percent after a leak at a crude pipeline. The pipeline transports oil from the Malongo area to its export terminal in Cabinda. The pipeline has been shut for about two weeks after leaks were discovered.

Source: *RESISTANCE OILWATCH NETWORK BULLETIN Number 34– December 2002*