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## **USW Oil Workers Call on Chevron, Total to Withdraw their Investment in Burma**

**Denver, Colo.**—Delegates to the United Steelworkers (USW) national oil bargaining conference unanimously approved a resolution this week calling upon USW employers, Chevron and Total, to pull out of Burma and denounce the military dictatorship.

“It is unethical and immoral for Chevron and Total to continue doing business with the brutal military dictatorship that has run Burma for over 40 years,” said USW International Vice President Gary Beevers. “Both companies continue to be major investors in the Yadana gas pipeline project and the payments and support they give to the dictatorship help keep that government in power. They must withdraw from the Yadana project, divest all of their Burmese holdings and denounce in clear terms the military dictatorship that oppresses the people of that country.”

Allegations have been made against Chevron and Total for the use of forced labor in Burma. The military dictatorship has engaged in harsh repression, systematic corruption and extensive use of forced labor since 1988.

Although the people of Burma voted in a free and fair election in 1988 to abolish the military dictatorship, the military refused to carry out the will of the people and put the leaders of the democratic movement, in particular, Aung San Suu Kyi, under arrest. Massive demonstrations against the dictatorship were suppressed with bloodshed and loss of life in 1988. In 2007, the military dictatorship again ruthlessly suppressed massive and peaceful demonstrations by Burmese religious leaders and citizens demanding freedom.

Concerned citizens throughout the world have called for global companies to divest their holdings in Burma, and companies like Chevron’s predecessor, Texaco, and leading jeweler Tiffany’s have responded by withdrawing from the country.

The USW is the largest industrial union in North America and represents over 1.2 million workers and retirees. In the oil sector, the USW represents 30,000 workers in the U.S., Canada and Aruba.

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