

Caterpillar Inc.

Canada Pension Plan
2011 Investment

\$3 million

When “caterpillar” treads first appeared in the early 1900s, they were used on farm tractors. But World War I changed all that and the track-tread was converted to military use for tanks and artillery-hauling machines. For this we can thank the Holt Caterpillar Co. Nowadays – with more than \$64 billion in assets – Caterpillar (CAT) is the world’s largest manufacturer of heavy equipment used in construction and mining.

Of the US\$1.6 billion in contracts that CAT received from the US federal government between 2000 and 2009, over 95% were for the military.

When CAT acquired Britain’s Perkins company for US\$1.3 billion in 1998, it created the world’s largest diesel engine maker. Caterpillar Defence Products supplies CAT and Perkins “engines and automatic transmissions for armoured and logistic vehicles, both tracked and wheeled.” Its engines are “combat proven in infantry fighting vehicles and main battle tanks.”

Perkins engines are sold in Israel by the Israel Tractor & Equipment (ITE) Co. (This firm is 100% owned by Israel’s Zoko Enterprises. See Eaton, pp.26-27.) The “Who Profits from the occupation” website says ITE

“retrofits Caterpillar heavy machin-

The Israeli Combat Engineering Corps. has used CAT’s D9 bulldozers in “combat/assault operations” since the 1967 war. CAT’s armoured D9s have destroyed tens of thousands of Palestinian homes and hundreds of thousands of trees in the occupied Palestinian territories.

ery vehicles for the needs of the Israeli army, including the installation of a gunner position and a bullet-proof driver cabin...for battle use. The armoured tools are used for house demolitions, uprooting of trees and military urban incursions into Gaza and the West Bank.”

In fact, since it began supplying Israel’s army in 1967, CAT equipment has demolished tens of thousands of Palestinian homes. Its so-called “construction” vehicles have also destroyed hundreds of thousands of trees in orchards and olive groves in the occupied Palestinian territories. The main tool in Israel’s arsenal for this widescale destruction is CAT’s D9 bulldozer. It is armoured in Israel by two state-owned firms, Israel Military Industries and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). (See “State-owned Israeli War Industries,” pp.48-49.) As IAI says, CAT’s “armored D9R,” is used “in combat/assault operations,” and has been

“successfully deployed to field units accomplishing battlefield demolition/construction, urban warfare support, creating access and egress routes for combat troops, and clearing lines of fire.”

In 2003, when U.S. peace activist Rachel Corrie was trying to nonviolently stop the demolition of a Palestinian home in Gaza’s Rafah refugee camp, she was crushed to death by a CAT bulldozer that was being operated by an Israeli soldier.

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Corporate Watch notes that “The D9 bulldozer was extensively used by Israel during ‘Operation Defensive Shield’ in 2001-2, particularly during invasion of Jenin, when countless homes were destroyed by bulldozers and a disabled man was crushed to death.”

Israeli troops have affectionately nicknamed the D9, “doobi,” which means “teddy bear” in Hebrew.

CAT has worked with former Israel military personnel at an Israeli firm called InRob to robotise the D9 for army operations. The result is a brand of unmanned, 60-ton robotic bulldozers called “Black Thunder” that cleared the way for Israeli ground troops in the 2008-2009 assault on Gaza. InRob, which calls itself “Israel’s leader” in creating robotic ground vehicles, says it “supports the IDF (Israel Defense Forces), Israeli police, and other military and civilian companies dealing with security.”

InRob details the links between its management team and the IDF. While InRob’s founder/chair, Ben-Tsur Joseph, “was in an elite unit of the Israeli Air Force,” its head of R&D, Shimon Shamay, was “an officer in the IDF, which gave him a unique perspective regarding robotics opportunities and potential.” InRob’s CEO, Nissim Lavi, was “an officer in an IDF combat unit which gave him first-hand knowledge of military operations.”

InRob’s IDF veterans have created “Front Runner,” a “Robotic Caterpillar MTL 257B.” These unmanned, multi-terrain, killer robots – operated from up to 3 km. away – are designed to include a “weapons mount for different kinds of machine-guns,” an “anti-riot shield,” launchers to fire “smoke/

CAT equipment is also used to build Israel’s separation wall and its segregated roads, which Palestinians cannot use.



Shu'fat refugee camp, East Jerusalem, Dec. 27, 2011.

Anne Paq/activestills.org

tear gas grenades,” as well as colour, infrared and thermal video cameras for night missions. These CAT robots, says InRob, are “ideally suited for a wide range of military, paramilitary, [and] law enforcement” operations. In 2007, InRob said the “Robotic MTL 257B platform will be marketed through Caterpillar’s network of distributors around the world.”

CAT also makes engines used by Israel’s Navy. In 2010, when Israel launched its deadly attack against the “Mavi Marmara” – the lead ship in a flotilla trying to bring aid to Gaza – Israel’s Navy used a commando boat powered by CAT engines. Israel’s Morena Rigid-Hull Inflatable Boat, made by US Marine Inc., uses CAT’s turbocharged 3126 diesel engines.

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Cellcom Israel

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This major telecom company is “the largest Israeli cellular operator.” The company is controlled by the Israel Discount Banks’ IDB Holding Corp. through the Discount Investment Corp. (DIC) which owns about 53% of Cellcom’s shares. (See DIC, p.25, and IDB in table “CPP Investments,” p.53.)

In 2009, Israel’s *Globes* business paper reported that Cellcom won “a Ministry of Defense tender to provide some landline telephony services for the IDF [Israel Defense Force].... Cellcom will provide 50-100 hookups to switchboards at IDF bases.”

Cellcom’s CEO, Amos Shapira, called “this tender a vote of confidence by the IDF in the capability and reliability of the company’s technology and services in general.”

This 2009 deal came one month after Cellcom broke Bezeq’s longstanding monopoly over phone contracts with Israel’s military. (See pp.11-12.)

That summer, on the fifth anniversary of the International Court of Justice declaration that Israel’s separation wall is illegal, Cellcom ran an ad campaign on Israeli TV depicting soldiers patrolling the wall. When a soccer ball came over the wall, dozens of machine-gun toting Israeli troops jumped from their jeeps to “have some fun” playing with the unseen Palestinians. The ad was “extensively criticized for making light of the Palestinian suffering inflicted by the West Bank barrier,” said Israel’s *Haaretz* newspaper.

In response to Cellcom’s ad, a video posted to YouTube showed what really happens when Palestinians kick a soccer ball over Israel’s razor wire-topped separation barrier. In the video, armed Israeli troops respond to the soccer ball by firing numerous volleys of tear gas at the Palestinian activists.

The “Who Profits from the occupation” database also says Cellcom “erected close to two hundred antennas and telecommunication infrastructure facilities on occupied land in the West Bank and the Golan Heights. The company provides cellular communication services to the settlers and Israeli soldiers in the occupied territory.”

Cellcom’s wholly-owned subsidiary, NetVision, was acquired for US\$427 million in 2011. As early as

On the 5th anniversary of the International Court of Justice decision that Israel’s separation wall is illegal, Cellcom was widely criticised for running a TV ad campaign that depicted laughing, machine gun-toting Israeli troops just “having some fun” kicking a soccer ball over the wall.

