

Developments with Apartheid rugby toursNew Zealand

May and June: 50,000 and 75,000 marched in two demonstrations against the tour.

July 10: four were arrested after throwing cow's blood on the portrait of Prime Minister Muldoon. All four are now on a hunger strike.

July 19: Springboks arrived in Auckland. Between 2-3,000 met them at the airport in spite of a 6 am arrival. Fifteen were arrested when they stormed the gates.

July 20: four anti-apartheid demonstrators were arrested after they commandeered a jeep and crashed a heavily guarded gate at Gisborne, the site of the first match. They covered the field with broken glass.

Muldoon's Office announced it might pull out of the Gleneagles Agreement, by which it pledged to act to end all sports contacts with South Africa.

Police reported a threat that an airplane would drop poison gas on the spectators at the first match.

July 22: In a "Day of Shame for New Zealand,"

8,000 marched in Christchurch

3,000 marched on the Wellington House of Parliament

1,000 marched in Auckland

500 pulled down a barbed-wire fence keeping them out of the playing field at Gisborne.

100 were arrested after clashes with the police.

Police have called for massive reinforcements for their "Operation Rugby."

Anti-Apartheid leaders predict that Saturday's match will mark the end of the tour.

July 23-24: Local protests were held throughout New Zealand

July 25: Major demonstrations were held in several cities in New Zealand

Several thousand marched at the site of the Hamilton test match, 400 broke off and cut a wire fence and took over the playing field. They were surrounded by riot police as they sang anti-apartheid songs for an hour. Then police started to pull them away one-by-one.

A small aircraft was stolen by an activist who flew it towards the stadium. Police, fearing the use of poison gas, called off the match.

The three national organizers of HART, the anti-apartheid group leading to protests, were physically assaulted in one of their homes. Trevor Richards, HART's International Affairs Officer, is under 24 hour protection after his house was attacked three times Saturday night.

July 26: Police, Ministry of Justice and rugby union officials met to discuss cancelling the tour. It was decided to leave it up to the rugby officials.

July 27: Rugby Union voted to proceed. New Zealand cabinet declared the situation a law and order issue and ordered army and air force reinforcements to contain demonstrators.

July 28: National Party caucus affirmed Cabinet decision to go ahead with the tour.

July 29: Match in New Plymouth took place without incident. 100 protestors were turned back by the police.

2,000 demonstrators marched in Wellington from parliament to the home of the South African Consul. They were attacked in a baton charge by riot police and dogs. 30 were injured, including an old woman.

1,500 marched on Air New Zealand in Auckland. Another baton charge took place.

July 30: Demonstrators broke into the offices of the Wellington Rugby Union and threw files out the window.

Acting Prime Minister MacIntyre justified the baton charge saying it was in order.

Opposition leader Bill Rowling told a press conference that an early election may have to be called over the tour issue.

About 400 have been arrested so far in two weeks.

July 31: 1,500 demonstrated in Wellington while the ruling National Party was starting its National Conference.

Police stopped the National Conference for fear of demonstrations.

Prime Minister Muldoon announced he was considering "curtailing the tour". He will meet on Monday with the Police, rugby officials and anti-apartheid leaders.

The Supreme Court ruled against a request by one Palmerston North City Council to stop the August 1st match in this location because of fear of violence.

Prime Minister Muldoon said he is considering calling an early election over the tour issue.

About 500 have been arrested so far in two weeks.

August 1: 5,000 protesters marched at the match. They were met by 1,000 police (1/5 of the entire New Zealand police force), who completely surrounded the ground.

Armoured trucks were inside in case the demonstrators broke through the police barrier. Army trucks were ready to carry demonstrators away.

Demonstrators, as planned, turned away and marched to the center of Palmerston North where they had a rally.

August 4: Meeting with Prime Minister, HART, police and rugby union leaders took place after a one day delay. The Commissioner for Race Relations proposed that HART tone down its demonstrating in exchange for agreement to cancel the last match. A national anti-apartheid day would be organized instead of the match. Also, a HART spokes person would speak before each remaining match.

Rugby and HART officials agreed to consider the proposal. Prime Minister Muldoon said little progress had been made.

August 5: 100 held a vigil outside the grounds in Wanganui, where a match was taking place.

1,000 demonstrated in Auckland while 500 charged a police line and broke into two companies which have provided financial assistance for the tour. Protesters smashed a plate glass window and bottles in a brewery, which is supporting the tour. Several were hurt, including one policewoman who was hospitalized.

700 demonstrated in Wellington.

UNITED STATES

July 13: US grants visas to Rugby team
US groups protest decision

July 14: announced that four team members were from the South African Defence Force and two were policemen.

announced that the American Rugby Football Union sought funds from Citibank, one of the largest US Lenders to South Africa.

July 15: ACCESS sent telegrams to mayors and City Councils where 3 US matches are to be held. Also to governors of States of New York and Illinois requested that no state or municipal facilities be used by the South Africans.

July 16: South African team transited through JFK airport at 6 a.m. ACCESS organized a demonstration there to protest their tour and reminded them they are not welcomed in the U.S.

A planning meeting was organized at the OAU headquarters in New York. Many groups attended and chose representatives of ACCESS, the National Black United Front and the National Black Independent Political Party as Co-convenors.

The stop the Apartheid Rugby tour coalition was launched. Each group telexed Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, expressing the need for the public statement denouncing the stop-over of the South Africans in Los Angeles in light of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

ACCESS contacted councilman Robert Farrell to introduce a resolution in the Los Angeles City Council to protest the rugby tour. The Councilman's aid agreed to introduce it on 7/20.

A similar resolution is before the New York state Assembly.

July 17: ACCESS organized a demonstration at Los Angeles International Airport for the departure of the Springboks.

July 18: The International Olympic Committee called for the cancellation of the US tour as a threat to the L.A. Olympics. The USOC agreed it was a serious threat.

July 20: Mayor Koch announced he would not oppose the South Africa's using Randall's Island. ACCESS protested to the mayor, pointing out his already bad image with black New Yorkers.

July 23: Coalition met in New York. Officially adopted the name of the campaign to Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour. First demo called for August 26th at City Hall and Federal Plaza.

July 24: SART cabled New Zealander protesters a message of support and congratulations for the tremendous work they have done.

Africa Group of the United Nations issued an appeal for the cancellation of the tour.

July 26: US Olympic Committee chief Simon met with ERFU head, Selfridge, appealing to ERFU to cancel to save the 1984 Games.

Arthur Ashe wrote a syndicated column calling for cancellation of tour.

Nigeria announced it might ask for a ban of all US athletes at International events if the tour proceeds.

July 27: SART press release announced its formation and plans for Tuesday press conference.

July 28: SART press conference announced plans for protest.

July 31: Chairman of UN Special Committee cabled all three mayors to appeal for cancellation of games in their cities.

August 1: The International Olympic Committee again appealed to the American Rugby Football Union to cancel the tour because of threatened disruptions of the 1984 olympics.

August 3: SART announced plans to demonstrate at the press conference that would introduce white South African heavy-weight champion Gerrie Coetzee to the American press.

August 4: Demonstration takes place. Coetzee says the demonstrators do not know about South Africa, which had done things wrong in the past but now is making progress. "I am proud to be a South African. I will not criticize my Country."

Coloured rugby captain, Govin Van Eyk, was arrested in Port Elizabeth because he tried to attend a rugby game in a black township without having a permit.

August 6: It was announced that Gary player had persuaded top American golfers to play in Bophuthatswana (Sun City). They include Jack Nicklaus, Johnny Miller and Lee Trevino.