TO:  Select Contacts
FROM:  Paul Irish

The U.S. Davis Cup team is due to meet the South African team April 15-17 in Newport Beach, California.

A good deal of hard work is being done by a number of groups in southern California to demonstrate opposition to the South African team's participation.

Attached is a copy of a letter ACOA has sent to the U.S. Tennis Association urging the U.S. team not to compete with the South Africans.

We urge you to send a similar communication of your own and to organize whatever opposition you are able to.
Mr. W.E. Hester, President
United States Tennis Association
51 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Hester:

I write on behalf of the American Committee on Africa to protest the upcoming meeting between U.S. and South African athletes at the International Davis Cup matches scheduled to take place April 15-17 in Newport Beach, California.

The Davis Cup and similar international sporting events should symbolize the spirit of sportsmanship and the mutual respect and acceptance among athletes of the world. Yet South Africa continues to violate basic tenets of international sports competition that athletes meet in open competition at all levels of play and be chosen solely on merit, not color.

Because of these violations, South Africa has been barred from Olympic competition since 1969. More recently, following formal hearings held in Montreal in July, 1976 South Africa was expelled from international competition by the world soccer, swimming and track & field associations. We find it inconceivable that the U.S.T.A. could support restoration of South Africa to the Davis Cup competition recently after having been suspended in the early 1970's for racist practices which are still in force today.

In response to these expulsions, South Africa is now attempting to substitute something they call "multi-nationalism" in place of multi-racial teams. Mirroring its apartheid policies, the white minority government is attempting to disenfranchise the 80% black majority, falsely suggesting they belong to separate "nations". This policy is a fraud. Racially mixed teams remain prohibited. Even when permission is granted for so-called "multi-national" competition, separate showers, washrooms and drinking fountains must be used and audiences segregated. Though they represent the majority of South African athletes, non-racial sports bodies are not recognized. South African sports are governed by the all-white sports federations. As the South African government's Minister for Sport, Pieter Koorhof made clear in debate in the white parliament, "The sport policy of the Government is that on club, provincial and national level, every nation (emphasis mine) in South Africa practices and administers its sport separately." (April 23, 1975)

There is no place for racism in sport. We believe that it is in the best interests of tennis in the U.S. if the U.S. team refused to compete with South Africa until such time as South Africa joins the worldwide community of nations by adopting without reservation the rules of open competition and selection by merit.

We urge the USTA to initiate action to suspend South Africa from the International Lawn Tennis Federation until that nation conforms to basic principles and forms a national tennis body on a non-racial basis which can represent all the tennis players of South Africa.

Sincerely yours,

George M. Houser
Executive Director