

⊕ ARENA THE INSTITUTE FOR SPORT AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

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June 3, 1977

Southern Africa Solidarity Committee
P.O. Box 101
Boston, Mass.

Dear supporter of racial justice :

I am writing to you today to let you know of the work of ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, a coalition of political, religious, civil rights and sports groups. Your organization has been recommended to us by one of our coalition members, the American Friends Service Committee, as a group that is deeply concerned about apartheid and racial injustice.

The coalition members feel that sport is a mirror of society and, as such, reflects all its problems. It has been in the area of sport that the racist South Africans have been most vulnerable on the international level. Enclosed is a background paper prepared to explain this issue and how it has developed.

The United States is still competing with South Africa in sports. The general objective of ACCESS is to end all US competition with South Africa as part of the international effort to totally isolate South Africa in sport. In order to accomplish the broader goal, ACCESS has put together the International Advisory Commission to End Apartheid Sport and has coordinated simultaneous efforts in seven European Nations, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Sri Lanka, and all of black Africa (through the OAU). The commission is made up of the leaders of the anti-apartheid movements in those nations and its Honorary Chairperson is Ambassador Leslie O. Harriman (Nigeria), Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. Dennis Brutus, the South African exile who has lead the non-racial sports movement for two decades, is Chairperson. I am Chairperson of ACCESS and Coordinator of the Commission. A full description of goals, means and targets are contained in the news release and stories from the New York Times that are enclosed.

Up to now, this has been a broad national coalition (the United Methodist Church, Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries is a late addition). With this as our base, we now are reaching out to our most important source of support - the progressive community groups. This is why I have written to you today.

DENNIS BRUTUS - CHAIRMAN
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

PETE AXTHELM
NEWSWEEK

JIM BOUTON, AUTHOR
BALL FOUR

DR. JON BROWER
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - FULLERTON

CHRIS DE BROGLIO
SOUTH AFRICAN NON-RACIAL
OPEN COMMITTEE (SAN-ROC) LONDON

GLENN DICKEY
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

DR. MICKEY EAST
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

DR. HARRY EDWARDS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY

BILL ESPOSITO
PRESIDENT-ELECT, COSIDA

IKE GELLIS, SPORTS EDITOR,
NEW YORK POST

CAROL HARDING
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S SPORTS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

JEROME HOLTZMAN
CHICAGO SUN TIMES

LYNDA HUEY, AUTHOR,
A RUNNING START

MS. PAT HYER
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

LEONARD KOPPETT
NEW YORK TIMES

VICTORIA KRESSE
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S SPORTS AND
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR,
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

BARBARA LAMBLIN
FREE LANCE WRITER

DR. TILDEN LE MELLE
CITY UNIVERSITY NEW YORK

ROBERT LIPSYTE, AUTHOR
SPORTSWORLD

TOM NEWNHAM, CHAIRMAN (CARE)
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
NEW ZEALAND

MS. JENNIFER PARKS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

JON SEGAL
EDITOR, QUADRANGLE BOOKS

DR. GEORGE SHEPHERD
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

MS. IONA STENHOUSE
BELLVIEW COLLEGE

DR. RICHARD THOMPSON
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY (NEW ZEALAND)

BOB VASQUEZ
KSDQ RADIO (SAN DIEGO)

GEORGE WRIGHT
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - CHICO

As we envision it, the regional members will be primary implementers of the policy. Their level of participation will, of course, vary according to their size and means. However, some ideas include:

1. Educational programs on the apartheid sports issue: local programs are very useful to inform the community. Dennis Brutus and I have been doing extensive speaking tours to bring the issue before the public. We have always been able to get good media coverage from the local media. All funds raised above expenses go directly to ACCESS.
2. Letter writing campaigns to sports federations that compete with South Africa, government officials and to editorial pages. Our present coalition members have over 75,000 constituents. We could easily triple that if the regional coalition group forms as we plan. Sports federations have been known to be swayed by 10-15 letters. Can you imagine 100 (all that would mean would be one letter from each coalition member organization) or 1,000 (less than .005 of constituents). We would reserve the massive letter writing campaigns for the big issues such as tennis, which is the only sport where South Africa is recognized internationally.
3. Presentations to sports federations that compete with South Africa: Delegates from concerned groups could meet with these people if their meeting takes place in their area.
4. Fund raising events: a similar campaign in New Zealand has an annual budget of \$30,000, with no salaried executives. To be effective in this country, and since we are the international coordinators, our budget will probably have to be higher than that eventually. Up to this point, personal debts run high. If each member of the regional coalition were able to raise between \$100 and \$300, we would be home free.
5. Contact local athletes for support: another part of our campaign is to get amateur and professional athletes to sign pledges that they will not compete with South African teams or athletes. The regional groups will be the major source of pledges as you have the contacts.
6. Non-violent, direct action demonstrations: when South African teams actually do get to the American playing fields as representatives of South Africa, we will have demonstrations. If this should take place in your area, we will ask that you lend us your organizing skills.

Therefore, we ask you now to agree to four things:

1. Join the regional ACCESS Network
2. Actively participate in our programs to the extent this is possible, with early stress on the educational programs
3. Recommend other local groups in your area and directly contact them about ACCESS and ask their representatives to write to me directly.
4. Send approximately \$25 to help defray the initial costs of organizing the regional Network.

Regional Coalition - page 3

In case you are pressed for time, I have enclosed a reply form that you can return if you are unable to write at this time. However, I would love to have your personal thoughts on the situation.

We now have the momentum with the massive press coverage we received last week. In addition to AP and UPI, Reuters sent the story out all over the world. All the South African papers wrote major stories on it. They are running scared and it is now up to us to finish off apartheid sport once and for all. We need the Southern Africa Solidarity Committee to be part of our crucial work. This will be the first sustained national effort where so many diverse United States groups have come together on the issue of apartheid.

I look forward to working closely with you in the coming months and years.

Fraternally,



Richard E. Lapchick
Chairperson, ACCESS

enclosures:

background paper
ACCESS Network
ACCESS News Release
New York Times stories
Reply form

ACCESS News Conference

Statement by Raphael Gould, Special Projects Director
AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA

May 25, 1977

The time is long overdue for a total sports boycott of South Africa. This would be in accord with United Nations resolutions calling for all member nations to end sports contact with South Africa until that country abides by the cardinal Olympic principle of fairness in sport: that each athlete compete freely in open competition and be chosen on merit without regard to race or any other consideration.

Because of South Africa's persistent violation of this basic rule, they have been expelled by many sporting bodies from participating at the international level. In 1976, after having been suspended for years, South Africa was expelled from world football (soccer), swimming, and track and field.

Yet, South Africa, through various means, including its ironically named Committee for Fairness in Sport, continues to deny its blatant racism in sport. It is now engaged in a massive international public relations/advertising campaign to persuade the world that apartheid in sport does not exist, even as South African newspapers carry articles, editorials, letters to the editors, decrying their country's practices of segregating audiences by race, the absence of sanitary facilities for all on an equal basis, inferior equipment, unequal athletic facilities, inadequate coaching personnel, and all the other scars of separate and unequal.

It has long been the position of the American Committee on Africa, and now in support of ACCESS, that the most effective course outside South Africa to support the struggle against apartheid inside South Africa, is to apply maximum pressure by isolating South Africa athletically, culturally, economically, until such time as the Black African people of South Africa, 80% of that country's population, gain their political, civil, economic rights with full citizenship and participation in decision-making at every level governing their own destiny.



American Friends Service Committee Inc.

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 • Phone (215) 241-7000

WALLACE T. COLLETT
Chairman

LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER
Executive Secretary


May 17, 1977

As Executive Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, I am happy to express our strong support for the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, of which the AFSC is a member.

The AFSC believes that all international sporting events should serve to express a spirit of genuine sportsmanship and should emphasize the mutual respect and acceptance that athletes feel for each other all over the world. Tragically, however, South Africa continues to thwart the realization of such a spirit and to violate the accepted principles of international sports competition by denying athletes the opportunity to compete openly at all levels of play and to be chosen to represent their country solely on the basis of merit, without regard to race or color.

Sports should provide (and to a great extent do) a way for breaking down the barriers of race, nationality and color. It is tragic indeed when instead they are used to reinforce prejudice, discrimination and oppression. In South Africa racially mixed teams remain prohibited, and even top white sports stars have been sternly dealt with when they have attempted to play on teams with their black countrymen.

We are convinced that U.S. teams can best serve the true intent of international sports competition (to promote good will, mutual respect and understanding) by refusing to engage in matches and/or contests involving South Africa, and to continue in that refusal until South Africa shows itself willing to abide by the rules of open competition and selection by merit without any caveats or exceptions - the same rules observed worldwide by the community of nations.


Louis W. Schneider,
Executive Secretary

Anti-Apartheid Protests Likely For Wimbledon

By NEIL AMDUR

Wimbledon's 100th birthday celebration may become the scene of large-scale demonstrations against apartheid if South African players are allowed to participate in the tournament.

Leaders of the recently formed American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society (ACCESS) warned yesterday that tennis was a prime target in the group's concerted effort to end all sports competitions between the United States and South Africa.

Among the events listed by the coalition for protest activity were the Federation Cup women's matches at Eastbourne, England (June 13 to 18), the all-England championships at Wimbledon (June 20 to July 3) and the United States Open championships at Forest Hills, Queens (Aug. 31 to Sept. 11).

Dennis Brutus, a coalition leader, said two British affiliates were "mobilizing" for a protest during the Federation Cup. Teams from South Africa, Rhodesia and the United States are entered in the tournament, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup.

Will Exert Pressure

"There are going to be protests at Eastbourne where the matches will take place," Brutus said during a news conference at the Church Center of the United Nations to announce the formation of ACCESS. "And there will certainly be pressure for exclusion of South Africa from the Federation Cup."

Brutus said the demonstrations could "take the same form" as the mass protests that stalked a South African rugby tour of Britain in 1969 and 1970 and squelched a proposed cricket tour by a team from South Africa the following year. Brutus identified the two British groups as the Anti-Apartheid Movement and SART (Stop All Racist Tours).

Brutus is president of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, one of the 15 groups in the coalition of civil rights, religious, political and sports organizations. Other groups that attended the conference were the American Committee on Africa, Coalition of Concerned Black Americans, Sports for

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Wimbledon Faces Protest Actions

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the People, Methodist Federation for Social Action, ARENA and United Methodist Church, Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries.

Dr. Jewell Gresham, executive director of the Coalition of Concerned Black Americans, criticized the United States Tennis Association for "continuing to play with racists by approving South Africa's Davis Cup status." She said her group would seek to have President Carter deny entry of South African players for the United States Open because of the "potential problems" they could create in a metropolitan area with a large black population.

A Variety of Tactics

"ACCESS will use its network to attempt to block any and all competition with South Africa," said Rich Lapchick, coordinator. "While a major effort will be undertaken in tennis, attacks will be made in all sports."

Lapchick, son of the late basketball coach, Joe Lapchick, said a variety of

tactics would be utilized. They included educational and letter-writing campaigns, presentations to sports federations that conduct business with South Africa, periodic news conferences with world-class athletes who support a sports boycott of South Africa and nonviolent direct actions against specific events.

The emphasis by the coalition will be directed more toward team competitions than individual, Lapchick said.

Brutus credited coalition pressure with the recent decision by Ursinus College to cancel a trip to South Africa by its women's gymnastics team.

Brutus, a South African who teaches at Northwestern University, has been in the forefront of the drive against South Africa's racial-separation policy. A proponent of isolating South Africa, he criticized the position of Arthur Ashe, the black tennis professional, who has urged continued contact with South African leaders.

"I think Arthur Ashe is doing more damage to the course of nonracial sport than anyone," he said.

NEW YORK TIMES, 5/24/77

Coalition Set Up For Boycott of South Africa

By NEIL AMDUR

The first concerted effort to sever all United States sports competitions with South Africa has been formed, with next month's Federation Cup women's tennis matches in Britain "an early target," a spokesman said yesterday.

A group known as the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society has called a news conference for 1 P.M. tomorrow at the Church Center For the United Nations to announce a coalition of 15 political, religious, civil rights and sports organizations that will "hammer away at the issue" of apartheid (racial segregation) in South Africa, according to Rich Lapchick, the coordinator of ACCESS.

Among the groups that have agreed to join the coalition, Lapchick said, are Operation PUSH, headed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson; the American Committee on Africa; Americans for Democratic Action; United Methodist Church Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries; Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, under the leadership of Dennis Brutus.

Ashe's Personal Boycott

Brutus, a long-time critic of South African participation in international sports, and Harry Edwards, one of the Founders of the Olympic Project for Human Rights 10 years ago, are among the speakers scheduled to attend the conference, Lapchick said.

"In the past, most of the protests against sports participation with South Africa were done by individual groups," Lapchick said. "This will be the first time there will be a concerted effort by a coalition."

The announcement of the coalition is the latest declaration aimed at bringing significant changes in South Africa's policy of separation of races. Last weekend, Andrew Young, the Chief United States delegate to the United Nations, visited Johannesburg and urged South African blacks to mount an economic boycott against apartheid.

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Coalition Set For Boycott of South Africa

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Arthur Ashe, the black tennis professional told South African officials during a visit there last month that he would not compete in the country again "until the situation changes materially."

South Africa has been barred from the last three Olympic Games, soccer's World Cup and many other international competitions. But South Africa was reinstated in the Davis Cup (losing to the United States last month in Newport Beach, Calif.) and is scheduled to play in the Federation Cup, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup, June 13 through 18 at Eastbourne, England.

Lapchick said members of the coalition had approved a policy of ending all team competitions between the United States and South Africa. He said a vote would be taken by the executive committee before tomorrow's news conference on a policy involving South African athletes who compete in the United States in individual sports, such as tennis and golf.

Lapchick said specific plans and goals of the coalition would be outlined at the news conference, he acknowledged, however, that demands for a United States boycott of events in which South Africa is entered and demonstrations during these events were potential areas of concentration.

Rhodesia to Be Included

Lapchick, a professor of political science at Virginia Wesleyan, said that Rhodesia also would be a part of the coalition's concerns.

"Any time South Africa or Rhodesia are playing, we hope to get involved," said Lapchick, the son of Joe Lapchick, the late basketball coach.

The coalition arrives 10 years after Edwards, a sociology professor at the University of California, and a group of black American track and field athletes began the protest movement with the formation of the Olympic Project for Human Rights before the 1968 Olympics.

Coincidentally, Edwards currently is involved in a dispute over teaching tenure at the Berkeley School. Another member of the original group, Tommie Smith, the 1968 Olympic 200-meter gold medalist, is the subject of a similar tenure controversy at Oberlin University in Ohio.