

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO KEEP SOUTH AFRICA OUT OF THE OLYMPICS

c/o Federation For Progress
620 W. Olympic Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 746-5028

December 26, 1983

Dear Friend,

We have reason to believe that there will be an attempt by the expelled South African Olympic Committee to regain membership in the International Olympic Committee. Some indication of this has appeared in the *Economist* (September 3, 1983) which states, "The South Africans are going to plead in some foreign high courts that their exclusion from international athletics is contrary to signed international athletic agreements. . . If they get their declaration, they intend to ask the California courts to enforce it."

In addition, it has recently come to light that James Zumberge, president of the University of Southern California, an Olympic Village site, paid a three-week visit to South Africa. Of his trip, he stated: "The worst thing we can do for South Africa is to shut them off from the rest of the world." Such incidents strengthen our suspicions that South Africa will press very hard in their attempts to be readmitted into the Olympics in a process that will start with the Games to be held in Los Angeles in July and August of 1984.

We, the following individuals and organizations, therefore wish to address an appeal to the President of the International Olympic Committee, to the President of the U.S. Olympic Committee, and to the Chair of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, that they should in no way collaborate with these efforts since it is clear that the basic policy in South Africa is discriminatory against people who are not white, and that this discrimination has been more deeply enshrined in the South African system by the constitutional changes which were approved in the recent referendum.

The South African Olympic Committee was expelled from membership of the International Olympic Committee by a formal resolution of the IOC at Amsterdam in May 1970. The grounds for that expulsion were the clearly established fact that the South African Olympic Committee was guilty of racial discrimination in its organization of sport in South Africa. This is in clear violation of the Olympic Charter which forbids discrimination on the grounds of race.

Since South African sport continues to be dominated by legalized racism, there can be no readmission of South Africa to the Olympic movement until these impediments are removed.

Furthermore, we propose supporting a resolution passed by the International Conference on Sanctions Against Apartheid in Sport, held in London last June. This resolution requested that the International Olympic Committee adopt a principle similar to that passed by the Commonwealth Games Federation in 1983. As with the CGF, the IOC would agree that any nation that competes with South Africa in a major event would be banned from the next (1988) Olympic Games.

We therefore call on the President of the International Olympic Committee, the President of the U.S. Olympic Committee, and the Chair of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee to:

- 1) *issue a clear, public declaration that they will oppose any efforts by the racist regime of South Africa to regain membership in the International Olympic Committee;*
- 2) *support the Commonwealth Games Federation resolution;*
- 3) *issue a public declaration opposing the establishment of a South African information center in Los Angeles to promote propaganda legitimizing apartheid in sport.*

Sincerely,

Dennis Brutus

President, South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee

Randall Robinson

Executive Director, TransAfrica

Assemblywoman Maxine Waters

48th District Ca

Richard Lapchick

*National Chairperson of
American Coordinating Committee
For Equality in Sports and Society*

Vusi Shangase

Representative, African National Congress

Judy Chu

*President, Los Angeles Chapter
Federation For Progress*

Elliot Barker

Representative, Unity in Action

Robert Farrell

*Los Angeles City Councilman
8th District Ca*

Midge Costanza

Former Assistant to President Carter

Reverend Thomas Kilgore

Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles

Frank Beeman

*Athletic Director of
Michigan State University*