STOP THE APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR

PRESS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, July 28th
11 am (sharp)

United Nations Press Conference Room 202

Speakers to include:

a representative of the Black Caucus of the New York State Legislature

a representative of the New York City Council

an African representative

One of the leaders of the Stop The Apartheid Rugby Tour campaign will reveal plans of how it will try to block the proposed matches between South Africa and the United States in September in Chicago, Albany and New York City.

NEWS RELEASE

COALITION MEMBERS
American Committee on Africa
American Friends Service Committee
American Friends Service Committee
Arena, the Institute for Sport and Social Analysis
Coalition of Concerned Black Americans
Coalition for Human Rights in Southern Africa
Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa

Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa
Gray Panthers
Methodist Federation for Social Action
National Conference of Black Lawyers
National Council of Black Churches
National Council of Negro Women
Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity)
Progressive National Baptist Convention
South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee
South African Students Movement

Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
Sports for the People
TransAfrica
United Methodist Church, Board of Global Ministries
World Division
United Methodist Church, Conferences Task Force on Southern Africa
United Methodist Church, Women’s Division
Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom
Young Women’s Christian Associates (YWCA)
For release: Monday, 1 pm
July 27, 1981

STOP THE APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR COALITION FORMED TODAY

The formation of the coalition to Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART) was announced today in New York City, the site of one of the planned matches between the South African Springbok rugby team and an American team.

SART is composed of more than 50 organizations. It includes the ACCESS coalition of 30 national civil rights, religious, political and sports groups and 25 other groups including the National Black United Front and the National Black Independent Political Party.

The coalition will hold a press conference at the United Nations on Tuesday, July 28th at 11 am to announce plans for how it will try to stop the South African team from playing in the United States in September when they are scheduled to play in Chicago, Albany and New York City on September 19, 22 and 26 respectively. The press conference will take place in room 202.

One of the first acts of SART was to cable support and congratulations to the New Zealand coalition of groups that is currently fighting to halt the tour of this same South African team in their country. More than three hundred New Zealanders have been arrested since the South Africans arrived there eight days ago. A SART spokesperson predicted that President Reagan's policies of closer ties with South Africa would provoke huge demonstrations if the South Africans play in the United States.

It was noted that by the time the press conference takes place on Tuesday that the New Zealand Government will have made its decision on whether it should cancel the remainder of the tour. That tour and the proposed American tour have been the cause of a major international controversy to the point that a senior Nigerian official has called for a ban on American athletes at international meets if the tour goes ahead. Both the International Olympic Committee and the United States Olympic Committee have urged that the tour be cancelled.

Speaking at the Tuesday press conference will be representatives of the Africa Group at the United Nations, of the Black Caucus of the New York State Legislature, and a member of the New York City Council. A SART spokesperson will disclose actions already taken and those planned as the campaign is mounted to block the South Africans from coming to play in the United States.

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for further information, contact:
Richard Lapchick, (212) 662-2140

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