For immediate release

STOP APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR
(S.A.R.T.)
777 U.N. Plaza
N.Y., N.Y. 10017

We are here today to announce the formation of Stop Apartheid Rugby Tour. This body was urgently called together when it was learned that the Springbok Rugby Team had been granted a visa to play rugby in the U.S.

On July 16, the South African team transited through J.F.K. airport at 6 a.m. where they were met by a demonstration which sought to remind them that they are not welcome in the U.S. A planning meeting was held at the O.A.U. headquarters in N.Y., and at that time, the Coalition to Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour was formed. The coalition consists of over 50 religions, sports, civil rights, and political organizations. One of the first acts of the coalition was to cable support and congratulations to the New Zealand coalition of groups that is currently fighting to halt the tour of this same team in New Zealand.

Everyday there is more and more evidence of the growing cooperation between the U.S. government and the racist South African government. The South African Rugby Team was invited to the U.S. to tour three American cities-Chicago, Albany, and New York City. On September 22, there will be a match between the Eastern Rugby Union and the South African Team, the Springboks, in Albany. On September 26, the Springboks will play the U.S. Eagles in New York City. Because of the world indignation against the apartheid system, the South African Rugby Team is being met with growing resistance in their efforts to play in New Zealand.
In view of the position of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the threatened boycott by the African nations the coalition calls upon the Reagan Administration to bar the rugby team. Plans for the U.S. will include efforts to rescind the visas granted by the U.S. State Department or preventing the games from taking place.

On August 26, at Federal Plaza, a demonstration will be held to denounce the issuance of visas and to protest the Koch Administration granting the use of Randalls Island for the September 26 match. Plans are presently under way for massive demonstrations if the proposed match is to take place on September 26. However, present plans include urging and supporting resolutions before the City council and State legislation to prevent the match.

The coalition will be meeting regularly to assess development and to plan future actions as deemed necessary.