ACCESS CALLS ON MAYOR KOCH TO RECONSIDER-DECISION TO ALLOW SOUTH AFRICANS TO USE NEW YORK CITY FACILITIES

ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, condemned Mayor Koch's decision to allow the South African rugby team to play on Randall's Island, a New York City facility, for a September 26th date.

ACCESS coalition members stated that this shows the Mayor's insensitivity to the Black Community of New York City and that he has all but written off the black vote in the Fall election.

ACCESS National Chairperson, Dr. Richard E. Lapchick, sent the Mayor a telegram this morning asking if the Mayor would allow the Palestinian Liberation Organization to send a rugby team to play in New York or if this would be too politically dangerous in New York City?

Lapchick noted that taxpayer dollars support the Randall's Island facility and that the Mayor will be taking the chance of making himself the target of anti-apartheid demonstrations if he allows the use of New York City facilities for the representatives of apartheid South Africa.

He strongly protested the Mayor's decision and asked him to reconsider and to ban the use of facilities to the South Africans.

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for further information, call 662-21140
Proposed resolution for the New York City Council

Whereas, the City of New York has consistently condemned the policy of apartheid as practiced in South Africa,

Whereas, the New York City Council adopted a resolution in 1977 against apartheid in sports when South Africans were due to play in New York City in the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament,

Whereas, the American Rugby Football Union and the Eastern Rugby Football Union have invited the South African national rugby team to compete in New York City at Randall's Island, a municipal facility, on September 26th 1981,

Whereas, the South African apartheid regime still practices apartheid in sport in violation of Olympic Principles,

Whereas, the South Africans have chosen a team of thirty whites and one black to project a softened image of apartheid to the American people when blacks inside South Africa face the granite wall of racial rejection each and every day of their lives,

Whereas, the tour of this same South African team in New Zealand is currently causing civil disruptions unprecedented in that country as thousands of New Zealanders protest the presence of the South Africans in their country,

Whereas, the American State Department has chosen to grant visas to the South African team to come to play in the United States in violation of the United Nations Declaration Against Apartheid in Sport and numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly,

Whereas, the International Olympic Committee has requested that this tour be cancelled to avoid disruptions of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games,

Whereas, we have received an official communication from ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, calling on our City Council to deny the use of New York's municipal facilities to the South Africans,

Recognizing that the presence of the official South African team in New York City would be an unwelcome mark on this City's democratic tradition and an insult to all New Yorkers who believe in racial justice, now, therefore, be it

Resolved that this City Council respectfully urge and direct Mayor Edward Koch, Department of Parks Commissioner Gordon Davis and any other officials to use all of their powers and those of their offices to cancel the proposed rugby match with South Africa scheduled for September 26, 1981 at Randall's Island.