THE AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EQUALITY IN SPORT AND SOCIETY

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COALITION MEMBERS

Operation PUSH - People United to Save Humanity
South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee
South African Students' Movement
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
Sports for the People
United Methodist Church, Women's Division
Board of Global Ministries
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

ACCESS SAYS: CLOSE THE OPEN TO APARTHEID - CUT ALL SPORTS

TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA

(NEW YORK) - On August 17th a delegation of union leaders, clergy, and community representatives of ACCESS met with U.S. Tennis Association President, Lew Hester, to explain ACCESS' position on the presence of South Africans at the U.S. Open. Hester noted that the U.S.T.A. was not prepared to ban South Africans from either the Open or the International Tennis Federation. He stated the U.S.T.A.'s desire for equality and non-discrimination in sport but then equivocated when it came time to outline steps that the Association would take to realize that goal. ACCESS was less vague.

ACCESS believes in the international ideals of sport - fairness, equality for all regardless of race, creed or sex, and friendly competition. We see a severe violation of these ideals in the apartheid sports policies of the white minority government of South Africa. Therefore, in accord with these values and the U.N. and O.A.U. resolutions calling for isolation of South Africa, ACCESS has decided upon the following strategy:

1) We will have a continued presence at the U.S. Open from opening day onward. There will be prayer vigils, pickets and other forms of education on the issue of apartheid and sport.

2) We will have a mass demonstration during the Finals in order to impress upon the television media and the public at large that the business as usual of sport must give way to the need for human rights re: apartheid and racism in sport.

3) City Council President, The Honorable Paul O'Dwyer, will introduce a resolution in the City Council condemning the U.S. T.A. and urging that the lease for Louis Armstrong Stadium be negotiated with a clause that prohibits the presence of South Africans.

4) We are advising our member organizations that the policies of the U.S.T.A. are tinged with racism and requesting that they inform their members of our assessment. We will further request that they allow membership of the U.S. T.A. to lapse if they are members and to refrain from joining the U.S.T.A. or participating in any of its programs until there is a policy change.