FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The coalition members of ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, are all aware of what apartheid means in general, and what apartheid sport means in particular.

Based on endless data and analysis of the situation, the picture has become all too clear: apartheid is the very basis of life for all South Africans. This includes sport where everything is based on race and where all but the white population are discriminated against as athletes, administrators and even as spectators.

The overall goal of ACCESS is to contribute toward the end to such apartheid sport. It is the shared belief of the coalition members that the only way this will be accomplished prior to full majority rule is for South African teams and sportsmen to be totally isolated in sport by the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. History has shown, time and again, that it is only through isolation that South Africans will discuss changes in apartheid sport. Since the South Africans have put politics into sport, it is only through politics that it can be removed.

Therefore, the objective of ACCESS is to end all competition between South Africa and the United States. While such organizations have been in existence for a number of years in many Commonwealth nations, there has never been a concerted, fully developed effort in the United States. ACCESS aspires to fill this void. As a combination of political, religious, civil rights and activist groups, ACCESS will attempt to call on the collective conscience of the American public to directly face the tragedy of life for the majority of South Africa's people under apartheid. As its neighbors become liberated, the immediacy of the South African situation becomes that much greater.

A further problem with continued competition with South Africa is that the Organization of African Unity has called for the cessation of African sports contacts with any country competing with South Africa. Thus, each time a sports federation in this country permits competition with South Africa, such as the recent Davis Cup matches in California, it risks ending all sports contacts with black Africa.

- more -
ACCESS will use its network to attempt to block any and all competition with South Africa. While a major effort will be undertaken in tennis, attacks will be made in all sports. Tactics will include educational programs, making presentations to the sponsoring sports federations, letter-writing campaigns, TV, radio and newspaper interviews, and, in some cases, non-violent, direct action campaigns.

ACCESS recognizes that by ending US competition alone, South Africa would not be totally isolated. Therefore, it has coordinated the International Advisory Commission to End Apartheid Sport. The Commission is chaired by Dennis Brutus, President of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SAN-ROC). Honorary Chairperson is Nigerian Ambassador to the United Nations, Leslie O. Harriman, who is Chairperson of the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid. Coordinator is Richard E. Lapchick.

It includes the leaders of the anti-apartheid movements of seven European nations, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Sri Lanka and all of black Africa (through the OAU). Press conferences are being held in each of these nations announcing simultaneous campaigns with similar goals and objectives to those of ACCESS. The early focus of this group will be centered around the Federation Cup in England this June.

The days of apartheid sports teams competing internationally are numbered.

- end -

ACCESS COALITION MEMBERS

American Committee on Africa
Americans for Democratic Action
American Friends Service Committee
ARENA, the Institute for Sport and Social Analysis
Clergy and Laity Concerned
Coalition of Concerned Black Americans
Gray Panthers
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity)
South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SAN-ROC)
South African Students' Movement
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
Sports for the People
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

NATIONS WHERE SIMULTANEOUS SPORTS BOYCOTTS WILL BE LAUNCHED

Africa (continent wide campaign led by the OAU)
Australia
Britain
Denmark
Finland
France
Ireland
New Zealand
Norway
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
The ACCESS Network

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Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity)
South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SAN-ROC)
South African Students' Movement
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
Sports for the People
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION TO END APARTHEID SPORT
(titles and affiliations for identification purposes only)

Leslie O. Harriman
Ambassador to the UN (Nigeria); Chairman of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid (Honorary Chairperson of the IACEAS)

Dennis Brutus
President of SAN-ROC (Chairperson of the IACEAS)

David Acquah
Chairman, Ghana National Committee Against Apartheid

Kadar Asmal
Chairman, Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement

A. Aziz
Member of Parliament; Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka

Julian Bond
Senator, Georgia State Senate

Neville Curtis
Chairman, Campaign Against Racial Exploitation (CARE) - Australia

Oystein Gudim
Secretary, Norwegian Council for Southern Africa

William Kunstler
Center for Constitutional Rights

A. Kusuhara
Chairman, Japanese Anti-Apartheid Movement

Elizabeth Landis
Vice-President, American Committee on Africa

Michael G. Law
Chairman, Halt All Racial Tours (HART) - New Zealand

Mikko Lohikoski
Finnish Africa Committee

Elizabeth Mathiot
French Committee Against Apartheid

Ian Mitchell
President, Citizens' Association for Racial Equality (CARE) - New Zealand

Manuela Mounir
Chairperson, Swiss Anti-Apartheid Movement

Abraham Ordia
President, Supreme Council for Sport in Africa

Laban Oyaka
Assistant Executive Secretary, Organization of African Unity, Liberation Committee

Percy Sutton
President, Borough of Manhattan

NATIONS WHERE SIMULTANEOUS SPORTS BOYCOTTS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN

Africa (continent wide campaign led by the OAU)

Australia
Ireland

Britain
New Zealand

Denmark
Norway

Finland
Sri Lanka

France
Switzerland