ACTION ALERT - the South Africans are coming!

The United States State Department yesterday opened its arms once again to South Africa when it approved the granting of visas to the Springbok rugby team for a September tour of the United States.

While ACCESS opposes all sports contacts with the racist regime, this tour is particularly insidious. Consider the following:

1. Rugby is the most segregated sport in the most segregated society in the world.
2. Of the 30 men on the team, four are from the South African Defence Force and two are South African policemen. Since the Reagan Administration appears ready to expand military ties with South Africa, we see it using the presence of these six men to soften the image of the brutal military force in South Africa.
3. More generally, we see it as a vehicle for the Administration to soften the over-all image of a segregated South Africa by bringing an 'integrated' team here to compete in front of American spectators.
4. Citibank may be involved in the financing of the tour. Attached is a memo from the Eastern Rugby Football Union, stamped as received by Citibank at the top. Citibank is, of course, one of the major lenders to South Africa.
5. This tour is part of a major international campaign by South Africa to break out of sports isolation. British and Irish teams went to South Africa in the past year (tour tee shirts were sold to raise funds "for our boys on the border "). The Springboks are scheduled to fly to New Zealand in the next few days for a two month tour there. New Zealanders have turned out for 50,000+ and 75,000+ demonstrations against the tour in the past two months. Our actions against the American tour will help them.
6. The United Nations has condemned the American tour.

We must act now - please turn the page for a series of ideas.

Dr. Richard E. Lapchick, National Chairperson
Dr. John Dommisse, Secretary-General — Phone (804) 393-4066
The United States Eastern Rugby Union will host the South African Springboks on September 22 and 26, 1981. The matches will be between the Eastern Rugby Union and the Springboks in Albany, New York, on September 22. The Springboks will then challenge the United States Eagles in New York City on September 26, 1981.

The sport of Rugby is amateur and with an undertaking of this size, I am asking for your financial support. Although Rugby has not achieved the prominence in the United States that it has achieved in South Africa, your company will benefit from this support in the South African community.

The cost of travel, training and meals alone will cost approximately $32,000. The support we seek is broad based, and your company can either be recognized in the program or remain anonymous.

The attached sheet provides a schedule of participation. I would appreciate your consideration in this manner. If I can be of any help in answering your questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

G.T. Selfridge
President, ERU