

# ⊕ ARENA THE INSTITUTE FOR SPORT AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

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Dear (either name, or "supporter of racial justice"):

I am writing to you today to let you know of the work of ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, a coalition of political, religious, civil rights and sports groups. Your organization has been recommended to us by one of our coalition members, the American Friends Service Committee, as a group that is deeply concerned about apartheid and racial injustice.

The coalition members feel that sport is a mirror of society and, as such, reflects all its problems. It has been in the area of sport that the racist South Africans have been most vulnerable on the international level. Enclosed is a background paper prepared to explain this issue and how it has developed.

The United States is still competing with South Africa in sports. The general objective of ACCESS is to end all US competition with South Africa as part of the international effort to totally isolate South Africa in sport. In order to accomplish the broader goal, ACCESS has put together the International Advisory Commission to End Apartheid Sport and has coordinated simultaneous efforts in seven European nations, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Sri Lanka, and all of black Africa (through the OAU). The Commission is made up of the leaders of the anti-apartheid movements in those nations and its Honorary Chairperson is Ambassador Leslie O. Harriman (Nigeria), Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. Dennis Brutus, the South Africa exile who has led the non-racial sports movement for two decades, is Chairperson. I am Chairperson of ACCESS and Coordinator of the Commission. A full description of goals, means and targets are contained in the news release and stories from the New York Times that are enclosed.

Up to now, this has been a broad national coalition (the United Methodist Church, Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries is a late addition). With this as our base, we now are reaching out to our most important source of support - the progressive community groups. This is why I have written to you today.

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As we envision it, the regional members will be primary implementers of the policy. Their level of participation will, of course, vary according to their size and means. However, some ideas include:

1. Educational programs on the apartheid sports issue: local programs are very useful to inform the community. Dennis Brutus and I have been doing extensive speaking tours to bring the issue before the public. We have always been able to get good media coverage from the local media. All funds raised above expenses go directly to ACCESS.
2. Letter writing campaigns to sports federations that compete with South Africa, government officials and to editorial pages. Our present coalition members have over 75,000 constituents. We could easily triple that if the regional coalition group forms as we plan. Sports federations have been known to be swayed by 10-15 letters. Can you imagine 100 (all that would mean would be one letter from each coalition member organization) or 1,000 (less than .005 of constituents). We would reserve the massive letter writing campaigns for the big issues such as tennis, which is the only sport where South Africa is recognized internationally.
3. Presentations to sports federations that compete with South Africa: Delegations from concerned groups could meet with these people if their meetings take place in their area.
4. Fund raising events: a similar campaign in New Zealand has an annual budget of \$30,000, with no salaried executives. To be effective in this country, and since we are the international coordinators, our budget will probably have to be higher than that eventually. Up to this point, personal debts run high. If each member of the ~~old~~ regional coalition were able to raise between \$100 and \$300, we would be home free.
5. Contact local athletes for support: another part of our campaign is to get amateur and professional athletes to sign pledges that they will not compete with South African teams or athletes. The regional groups will be the major source of pledges as you have the contacts.
6. Non-violent, direct action demonstrations: when South African teams actually do get to the American playing fields as representatives of South Africa, we will have demonstrations. If this should take place in your area, we will ask you to lend us your organizing skills.

Therefore, we ask you now to agree to ~~three~~ four things:

1. Join the Regional ACCESS Network
2. Actively participate in our programs to the extent this is possible, with early stress on the educational programs.
3. Recommend other local groups in your area and directly contact them about ACCESS and ask their representatives to write to me directly.
4. Send approximately \$25 to help defray the initial costs of organizing the regional ~~groups~~ network.

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In case you are pressed for time, I have enclosed a reply form that you can return if you are unable to write at this time. However, I would love to have your personal thoughts on the situation.

We now have the momentum with the massive press coverage we received last week. In addition to AP and UPI, Reuters sent the story out all over the world. All the South African papers wrote major stories on it. They are running scared and it is now up to us to finish off apartheid sport once and for all. We need  
to be part of our crucial work. This will be the first sustained national effort where so many diverse United States groups have come together on the issue of apartheid.

I look forward to working closely with you in the coming months and years.

Fraternally,

Richard E. Lapchick  
Chairperson, ACCESS