URGENT ACTIONS REQUIRED

TO: ACCESS coalition members and friends
FROM: Richard Lapchick

We are extremely close to breaking the back of the South African Springbok Rugby tour. Immediate actions could determine whether the tour takes place or collapses.

The revelations in the WASHINGTON POST that the Eastern Rugby Union accepted South African money (see attached) could open the State Department to the cancellation of the visas. Therefore, please

(1) Send a cable immediately to:
   President Ronald Reagan
   The White House
   1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
   Washington, D.C.

   Demand the cancellation of the visas.

(2) Send mailgrams to the mayors of Chicago and Albany asking them to cancel the proposed matches.

   Mayor Jane Byrne
   Chicago City Council
   121 N. LaSalle
   Chicago, IL 60602

   Mayor Erasmus Corning
   Albany City Council
   Eagle Street
   Albany, N.Y. 12207

(3) Come and bring friends to the August 26th DEMONSTRATION and RALLY. We will protest against the issuance of visas and will demand that they be cancelled.

   Date: 26th of August, 1981
   Time: 12 noon
   Place: Foley Square

   Invited speakers will be:
   Judge William Booth
   Representatives from the liberation movements of Southern Africa
   Reverend Herbert Daughtry
   Vinnie Burrows
   Mike Young
   Richard Lapchick

STOP THE APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR
Man Tied to S. African Scandal Gives $25,000 to U.S. Rugby Union

By Reed Kramer

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 — The Eastern Rugby Union of America, which is sponsoring next month’s controversial U.S. tour by the South African Springbok rugby team, accepted a $25,000 donation from a Johannesburg businessman who has previously served as a conduit for secret South African government funds.

The donation was made in December, the same month that the American rugby union issued an invitation to South Africa’s Springboks. Because of that country’s racial policies, South Africa has been banned from the Olympics and most international sports competition, and no national South African sports team has visited the United States since 1978.

The Springboks are scheduled to play three mid-September matches in Chicago, Albany, N.Y., and New York City following a turbulent six-week tour of New Zealand marked by large and sometimes violent anti-apartheid demonstrations.

If the U.S. matches take place, they are expected to draw similar protests. They will also dim the hopes of the U.S. Olympic Committee, host of the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, for a grand American return to Olympic competition after the 1980 Moscow boycott. African nations, which stayed away from the Montreal Olympics in 1976 to protest New Zealand’s sports ties with South Africa, have said the U.S. tour would force them into another boycott in 1984.

U.S. Olympic Committee President William Simonds has appealed to the rugby union to cancel the tour, but he has no jurisdiction since rugby is not an Olympic sport. New York Mayor Edward Koch has withdrawn permission for a Sept. 26 match in a city-owned stadium, and local organizers in Chicago have moved the game to a private facility.

But the rugby group says it will go ahead with play in each city.

According to the Eastern Rugby Union documents, the $25,000 grant in December was provided by Louis Loyt, chairman and chief executive officer of the South Africa-based Triomf Fertilizers. “For upgrading coach/referee the BRU,” Loyt confirmed the grant in a statement to Washington Post correspondent Caryle Murphy in Johannesburg today, and asserted that there had been nothing improper about the donation.

Richard Lapchick, one of the organizers of the Springbok Rugby Tour Coalition, which received the documents from dissident rugby union members, believes the donation is “part of a major South African effort to use money to break the international sports boycott.” He cites large purses being offered to American bowlers, golfers and other athletes for competing in South Africa.

The coalition describes itself as being composed of five 100 religious, sports, civil rights and other American groups opposed to South Africa’s right system of racial segregation, known as apartheid.

The donor, Loyt, was a key player in the worldwide South African public relations drive that produced a scandal in the late 1970s. The operation, headed secretly by Information Department funds, was designed to “buy influence at home and abroad,” until press exposure uncovered the story, forcing Prime Minister John Vorster and his chosen successor from office.

Official inquiries at the time identified Loyt as a conduit for about $18 million in secret funds for the Christian, a pro-government English-language newspaper, he established in 1976.

[Loyt said in Johannesburg that he provided the $25,000 from his personal funds at the request of the U.S. rugby group’s president, Tom Selfridge. He said he had already been spent, and therefore will not be used for the Springboks tour.]

[Loyt said the grant “doesn’t make a dent” in the Eastern Rugby Union’s expenses. “I made the donation because South Africans want more rugby playing countries and the sport is not yet popular in the United States. He added, ‘I’ve donated more than $2 million to sports in the past two years.”]

[Loyt said he plans to go to the United States next month and may do some coaching for the rugby union at that time.]

The $25,000 Loyt gave the Eastern Rugby Union amounts to a significant boost in income for the association, whose membership comprises clubs in 23 northeastern and southern states. Treasurer Bill Hawker had projected a 1981 budget of $25,000, and in a recent memo on “money sent to member clubs, reported that “the pace of growth in the funding program [sic] was eased” by the large grant. The 1981 budget figure does not include the grant from Loyt, according to Tom Selfridge, the rugby union president.

Selfridge said in a telephone interview that an effort to solicit financial support for the Springbok tour from U.S. corporations with South African subsidiaries had “brought no news” despite an appeal letter from Selfridge arguing that “your company will benefit from this support in the South African community.”

In June, the Mystic River Rugby Club wrote to Selfridge to “express concern” about the “political overtones” associated with the tour. The Massachusetts club also asked “who from South Africa” had made the donation “and what is the connection between the donation and the South African tour?”

Selfridge named Loyt in his June 26 reply, but denied that the money was a factor in deciding to invite the Springboks. Selfridge also said that Loyt’s grant had been disclosed at the rugby union’s annual meeting in December.

“This is a matter of sport in the purest form. We don’t feel sports and politics mix at all,” Selfridge said in defending the tour. He added that although Springboks is a national team comprising top players from different South African areas, at least five other less prestigious South African teams have toured the United States this year. The Springboks, he added, is an integrated team and includes at least one Colored player and one Colored coach.

Asked why the South African decided to give such a grant, Selfridge said: “Dr. Loyt has a corporation in New York City, he is interested in getting involved in the rugby programs in the United States, and he saw fit to give seed money to our coaching program—that’s about as simple as it can be.”

Loyt, a former rugby forward himself, has long maintained an interest in South African athletics and helped establish the Committee for Fairness in Sport, another recipient of government funds in the “Integrate” scandal. According to a budget document prepared by the Information Department that surfaced earlier this year, the committee was to receive $75,000 in secret funding in 1976-78.

Loyt was also named in 1976 as one of five millionaires backers of the Club of Ten, an Information Department project that placed pro-South African ads in European and North American newspapers beginning in 1974.

Lapchick argues that the Loyt donation to the rugby union is yet another secret attempt to promote South African interests.

“They could be attempting to sabotage the 1984 Olympics by having this team come here, because in terms of any competitive advantage there is certainly no advantage for the Springboks to play American teams that are of no high caliber.” He suspects South Africa would like to see the gap between the United States and black African nations widened.