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US OPEN DEMONSTRATION MARKS CULMINATION OF MONTHS OF EFFORTS
BY ACCESS TO INFLUENCE THE USTA POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA

Today's demonstration is the culmination of months of work by the ACCESS coalition to influence the US Tennis Association to end their support for South Africa in the International Tennis Federation.

During this period of intense activity, many important local, national and international developments have focused attention on the issue of sports contacts with South Africa.

ACCESS has developed significant support in the New York community since it called for today's demonstration. On August 4th, approximately 300 sympathizers marched outside of the USTA's Manhattan headquarters. More than 25,000 flyers protesting USTA policy on South Africa have been distributed to unions, churches, schools and civic organizations. More than a dozen trade unions, as well as numerous local civil rights groups, have endorsed today's demonstration and the aims of ACCESS to end all sports contacts between the United States and South Africa.

The most important local development was that the City Council of New York unanimously adopted a resolution on August 25th supporting the work of ACCESS and opposing the USTA's allowing South Africans to compete.
Nationally, the movement had its inception in April when the USTA hosted South Africa in the Davis Cup matches in Newport Beach, California. More than 1,000 demonstrators showed their opposition there. Since that time, the original ACCESS coalition has expanded to include the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa, the YWCA, and the National Student Coalition Against Racism. The coalition now has a constituency of well over one million through its affiliates and has used this network over the past three months to inundate USTA President W.E. Hester with letters of protest over his organization's policies on South Africa. It was when ACCESS received little constructive response from the USTA that it decided to go ahead with the demonstrations.

Internationally, there have been many developments in support of the work of ACCESS. The United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, the Organization of African Unity and the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa all have endorsed the agenda of ACCESS and all three placed representatives on ACCESS' International Advisory Commission to End Apartheid Sport.

The World Conference for Action Against Apartheid, co-sponsored by the UN, the OAU and the Nigerian Government, called on all nations to withdraw from the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup until South Africa is expelled from the ITF. In fact, there had already been considerable movement in that direction as Canada, Mexico, Venezuela and the Caribbean all have withdrawn from the North American Zone of the Davis Cup, leaving only South Africa, the US and Columbia. In June, the Prime Ministers of all the Commonwealth nations endorsed the Gleneagles Agreement calling for an end to all sports competition between their respective nations.
and South Africa. This caused New Zealand, Canada and Australia, all former allies of South Africa in the ITF, to vote for South Africa's expulsion from the ITF. All of these developments only serve to highlight the crucial nature of the USTA's support of South Africa. Its position now threatens New York City as the site of the 1984 Olympics as the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa has announced it will oppose New York as the site unless either the USTA changes its policy or the City of New York declares that it will not allow its facilities to be used by athletes chosen under apartheid conditions.

With the future of international tennis competition now hanging in the balance, ACCESS calls on the USTA to do what it claims it has been trying to do, that is, to save international tennis. It is clear that the choice is boiling down to either keep South Africa and lose most of the world, or exclude South Africa and infuse the Davis Cup and the Federation Cup with the high level of idealism in which they were no doubt conceived.

ACCESS will continue to work toward this end, not only in tennis but in all sports where the United States still competes with South Africa.

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