We, a group of concerned organizations and individuals in Chicago, have come together to form a broad-based coalition, STOP THE APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR (SART). We stand united with national SART efforts to oppose and prevent the tour to Chicago, Albany and New York City of the South African national rugby team, the Springboks.

The South African government systematically denies basic human rights to the majority of its population. Therefore, we oppose any United States complicity with the South African system of oppression. Sports contacts with South Africa are used by its government to improve its image while it continues to enforce racial segregation through banishments, deportations, arrests and the use of torture.

On September 19, 1981, the South African rugby team is due to play a rugby match with a selected team of members of the Midwest Rugby Football Union in the Chicago area. (The Rugby Union has refused to designate the location of the match).

We oppose the match for the following reasons:

1) South Africa's white government maintains racial segregation of life under a system known as apartheid and commits vast human rights violations against the Black majority.

2) There is no separation between sports and politics. Just as the U.S. boycotted the 1980 Olympics because of Soviet Union presence in Afghanistan, so can it refuse sports contacts with South Africa.

3) Although there are cosmetic changes on the South African team (Black team members) to deceive people outside South Africa, all laws enforcing apartheid in sport remain on the South African statute books.

4) Of the 34 South African team players, 4 are members of the brutal South African Defense Force and 2 are policemen.

5) The United States government has issued visas to members of the Springboks team in violation of the United Nations resolution to isolate South African sports contacts.

Our goal, therefore, is to cause the Springboks rugby matches to be cancelled or, if they are held, to protest the match in the Chicago area. To this end, we are:

* Calling on President Reagan to revoke the visas issued to the apartheid team;

* Calling on Governor Thompson and Mayor Byrne to prohibit use of public facilities or lands within their respective areas for the match;

* Calling on Mayor Byrne and Governor Thompson to meet with representatives of this coalition;

* Calling for observances throughout the Chicago area on Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12 to mark the anniversary of the murder of South African leader Steven Biko;

* Establishing communications with all concerned organizations and individuals to enable as many people as possible to participate in a protest at the site of the match.