A CALL TO ACTION: PROTEST NBC’S COVERAGE OF SOUTH AFRICAN BOXING MATCH

Despite meetings with the promoter Bob Arum and top officials of NBC sports, the heavyweight match between black American John Tate and white South African Gerrie Coetzee is scheduled to go ahead in South Africa October 20th. ACCESS (the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society) with which ACOA works, is calling for concerted action directed at NBC affiliates. The network plans to broadcast the fight on its Sports World Program, Saturday, October 20th.

Coverage of the event promises to give South Africa an unprecedented opportunity for a favorable image to mask its racist policies. The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, which represents athletes from independent Africa, has already indicated that if NBC goes ahead with its coverage, NBC would not be granted rights to televise future sports events from independent Africa, and African athletes would refuse interviews with NBC at the upcoming Moscow Olympics.

Enclosed are two ACCESS brochures explaining why we must protest this fight, and why, despite occasional claims in the press, South Africa retains racism throughout its sports, and the majority of South African athletes call on the world community to boycott sports contact with South Africa.

We urge you to contact your NBC affiliate station: by telephone, with a letter of protest or to request a meeting. If possible, organize a delegation to explain your reasons for requesting the T.V. station not to carry the fight. The affiliate will be sure to communicate your protest to NBC Sports. You could also send a letter directly to Arthur Watson, President of NBC Sports (30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020). Make your protest known to the other media in your area.

We urge you to organize to leaflet, picket or demonstrate outside the NBC affiliate’s office in your area. Simultaneous demonstrations have been called already for October 20, 4 PM (the time of the broadcast) in Boston, Chicago, New York and Norfolk. A picket has also been called for October 3 (noon) outside NBC headquarters in New York.

For additional copies of these brochures and further information, contact ACOA. And please send copies of leaflets, clippings, letters, to: ACCESS, Post Office Box #518, New York, New York 10025.