Action Alert

11 September 1980

TO: All ACCESS coalition members and supporters of non-racial sport in South Africa

FROM: Richard Lapchick

RE: intensification of golf campaign

As you know from previous mailings (most recently 9 and 23 July), South Africa is sending a team to compete in the Eisenhower Cup Golf Tournament in Pinehurst, North Carolina from 8 to 11 October 1980.

For the past two months, supporters from around the world have sent a barrage of telegrams and letters to the US Golf Association, the sponsor, and to the Carter Administration. While we feel this has made an impression, neither party has changed. See the attached press releases and correspondence to understand how contradictory their public positions are and, yet, how they are using each other's position to justify inaction against the racists.

DEMONSTRATIONS - While we are going to continue to apply pressure at key points, we are now preparing for demonstrations at the Pinehurst Country Club where the matches will be played. Please directly contact Dr. John Dornisse, our Secretary-General who is organizing the demonstration. We are picking Saturday, October 11th as the demonstration date. John can be reached at 1801 Airline Blvd.; Portsmouth, VA 23707; (804) 393-4066

OTHER ACTIONS: We feel it is important to continue the letter-writing to the USGA and to Carter, using their inadequate responses as the basis:

* Mr. P. J. Boatwright, Exec. Dir.
  US. Golf Association; Golf House
  Liberty Corners Road
  Far Hills, N.J. 07931

* President Jimmy Carter
  The White House
  1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
  Washington, DC 20500

ABC-TV is going to televise the event and give South Africa the propaganda vehicle it needs. They are susceptible to pressure. Write to:

* Mr. Roone Arledge, President
  ABC-TV Sports
  1330 Avenue of the Americas
  New York, NY 10019

Finally, it is possible that local officials may want to avoid demos enough that they would pressure the USGA to withdraw the invitation. Write:

* Mayor John A. Goshorn
  Mayor's Office
  P.O. Box 1793
  Pinehurst, NC 28374

* Judge Robert L. Gavin
  President of the Board
  Pinehurst Country Club
  P.O. Box 400; Pinehurst, NC 28374

*Sample letters enclosed. PLEASE ACT URGENTLY. Actions above are listed in order of priority if your time is limited. Send us copies of all correspondence.
ACCESS ANOUNCES INTENSIFICATION OF CAMPAIGN TO EXCLUDE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM FROM EISENHOWER CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT IN OCTOBER

ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, announced today the intensification of its campaign to protest South Africa's participation in the Eisenhower Cup Golf Tournament, scheduled for 8 to 11 October in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

ACCESS is now planning for demonstrations at the site in Pinehurst if the South Africans do participate. New targets for the campaign include ABC-TV, which plans to televise the event, as well as local officials in Pinehurst.

Efforts began on July 11th with a letter-writing campaign to the US Golf Association, the sponsor, and to President Carter. In spite of a sizeable international response to this call, USGA Executive Director, P.J. Boatwright, answered that as sponsor and in "view of U.S. government policy and of its obligation as a member of the WAGC (World Amateur Golf Team Championship)," the USGA was "not in a position to take any action with respect to the position of a team from South Africa."

Dr. John Dommisse, the Secretary-General of ACCESS, called the responses of the USGA and the Carter Administration contradictory. He pointed out that the Administration said, "With regard to our sports policy toward South Africa, the U.S. Government will not promote, sponsor or facilitate sports exchanges involving South African teams or individuals...many of these (sports) organizations are aware of the Government's sports policy toward South Africa and choose to adopt it."

The USGA not only does not choose to adopt the sports policy, but claims it is acting "in view of US Government policy" after the USGA General Counsel consulted with the State Department and found that, "all member organizations, including South Africa, would be allowed to have their teams visit the United States and compete in the championships without any restriction whatsoever." (letters attached).

ACCESS has cabled President Carter to point out this major discrepancy and called on his Administration to clarify its position in this crucial area of race relations.

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NEWS RELEASE

Coalition for Human rights in Southern Africa
Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa
Gray Panthers
Methodist Federation for Social Action
National Council of Black Churchmen
National Conference of Black Lawyers
National Council of Negro Women

Operation PUSH (People United to Save Hum: South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee
South African Students Movement
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S: Sports for the People
United Methodist Church, Women's Division
United Methodist Church, Board of Global Missions
United Methodist Church Conference Task Force on South Africa
As far as the obligation of the USGA as a member of the WAGC, ACCESS pointed out that the International Golf Association, also traditionally staunch supporters of South Africa, decided in July that it would no longer insist on host nations accepting South Africa as a participant. This took place two weeks after ACCESS announced its plans to work for the exclusion of South Africa from the World Cup in Columbia in December. In addition, Fiji, the host of last year's Eisenhower Cup, did exclude South Africa. Dommisse said this showed sufficient precedent for such an action, "even in golf, one of the very few sports where South Africa competes with impunity."

Dommisse called ABC's telecast of the matches "the vehicle South Africa needs to sell its propaganda to the American people. While you can almost bet that South Africa will send an 'integrated team' to try to convince the viewing audience that it is an increasingly integrated society, golf remains one of the most segregated sports in South Africa. It is a country where 84% of its people are Black and yet there is not a single 18 hole golf course for Blacks in all of South Africa in spite of 50 years of appeals by Black golfers for equal facilities and opportunities."

He added that "by insisting on South Africa's participation, the USGA is clearly supporting racism. By neither actively intervening nor even clarifying its real position in public, the Carter Administration has raised the question of its own sincerity on human rights questions overseas. ABC-TV has become the servant of the South African Government by publicizing South Africa's veneered racial laws."

In addition to continuing to target the USGA, the Carter Administration, and ABC-TV, ACCESS has called today on its 30 coalition member organizations to use their influence on the Mayor of Pinehurst and the President of the Board of the Pinehurst Country Club to exert pressure on the USGA.

If they are unable to do this on the basis of the immorality of racism, then perhaps the spectre of demonstrations on their hallowed lawns and in front of their cameras will provoke these officials to exclude the representatives of racist apartheid South Africa from the Eisenhower Cup.

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for further information, call Dr. John Dommisse
(804) 393-4066

enclosures: letters to ACCESS from USGA
US Department of State
"Race Discrimination (Apartheid) in South African Golf."