ACCESS ANNOUNCE CAMPAIGN TO ISOLATE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLFERS PLAYING IN THE UNITED STATES - EISENHOWER CUP TO BE THE FIRST TARGET

ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, announced today that it was launching a campaign to end competition between US golfers and golfers from the white South African Golf Union (SAGU).

ACCESS has chosen the Eisenhower Golf Tournament scheduled for Pinehurst, North Carolina from 3 to 6 October as its first target. The US Golf Association (USGA) has invited South Africa to participate this year in spite of the fact that they were excluded last year when the Tournament was held in Fiji because of the SAGU's apartheid policies in golf inside South Africa.

As a first step, ACCESS has requested that the USGA withdraw its invitation and has asked President Carter to intervene directly with the USGA. Since the USGA has not responded to correspondence, ACCESS National Chairperson Dr. Richard E. Lapchick has requested that President Carter deny visas to the South Africans now that the Administration has chosen to mix politics and sport with the Moscow Olympics.

ACCESS has also called on its 30 coalition members to have their respective organizations, which have several million members collectively, to initiate a letter-writing campaign to President Carter and the USGA. ACCESS is also preparing for demonstrations at Pinehurst if South Africa does participate.

Golfers, who represent one of the most segregated sports in South Africa, have rarely been challenged in the United States in recent years. Gary Player, South Africa's best known golfer, has earned millions of dollars in the United States while espousing the merits of apartheid South Africa.

For example, a 1979 New York Times interview with Player quoted him as saying, "I definitely feel there is more love between white and black in South Africa than in any country I've seen," of the country where the Police Commissioner ordered his men "to shoot to kill" and when they did, between 32 and 50 were dead in the streets; of the country over -

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where hundreds of thousands of school children boycott the schools because of the inferior apartheid education system; of the country where, according to the New York Times of 5 July 1980, 148 people have been executed in the past 12 months; of the country that confiscated the passport of M.N. Pather, Secretary-General of the South African Council on Sport (SACOS), as he was about to depart to testify at the United Nations on how racist sport still is in South Africa; of the country which still does not have even one 18 hole golf course for the Black people who make up more than three-quarters of the population and where the white golf clubs do not allow black members and require permits for blacks to play on them.

These are some of the reasons why ACCESS will try to stop South Africa from competing at the Eisenhower Tournament and why it will continue to work in support of non-racial sport in South Africa until apartheid has been eradicated.

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background enclosures:

"Race discrimination (Apartheid) in South African Golf"
"New York Times interview with Gary Player"