ACCESS PROTESTS THE RESTRICTION OF M.N. PATHER, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL ON SPORT

ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport in Society, has condemned the action of the South African Security Police for confiscating the passport of M.N. Pathér, Secretary-General of the South African Council on Sport. SACOS is the non-racial governing body for sport in South Africa.

Mr. Pathér was about to leave for New York where he was scheduled to consult with the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, the UN Centre Against Apartheid and the Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against Apartheid in Sport. Pathér had been in New York in March for hearings with the Special Committee and consultations with the major international sports anti-apartheid movements, including ACCESS. Prior to that time, M.N. Pathér had been denied a passport by the South African regime because of his leadership in the struggle to end apartheid in sport.

ACCESS National Chairperson, Dr. Richard E. Lapchick, called the decision to withdraw Mr. Pathér's passport an "extreme act of cowardice" and a "clear demonstration of the hypocrisy of the government's so-called 'new sports policy.'" Lapchick said that, "After years of failure to obtain a passport, M.N. Pathér was suddenly granted one during the visit of an investigative team of the British Sports Council. Now that the Sports Council has issued a favorable report, such 'concessions' as the granting of passports to non-racial sports officials is no longer necessary."

ACCESS has cabled President Carter and Secretary of State Muskie to ask them to intervene in the case to re-obtain a passport for Pathér. Lapchick said that ACCESS had reaffirmed its request to the Administration, made on the 16th of June, to actively intervene in ending all sports contacts between South Africa and the United States now that the President has decided to mix politics and sports over the Olympic Games.

ACCESS has also cabled the British Sports Council to request that they amend their report on South African sport in light of this reprehensible act by the South African government.

Finally, ACCESS has pledged to increase its own activities as the United States sports anti-apartheid coalition of 30 national civil rights, political, religious and sports groups to end all sports contacts between the United States and South Africa until apartheid is eradicated.

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