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AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA HAILS BARRING OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FROM "POLICE OLYMPICS" IN SAN FRANCISCO FOLLOWING PROTESTS

(New York) Following protests by the American Committee on Africa and other organizations, an invitation to the South African Police (SAP) to participate in a "Police Olympics" in San Francisco this month has been withdrawn. The office of San Francisco Police Chief Donald Scott would reveal only partial contents of a letter to the South African consulate there in which it was stated that the invitation was being withdrawn because of "difficulties that might be expected" and because of "inferences that might be drawn" by the participation of the South African Police.

Hon. William H. Booth, President of the American Committee on Africa, hailed the decision to withdraw the invitation, stating that, "We thank those who joined us in making Mayor Alioto and the Chief of Police aware that the South African Police should not be welcome in our country. The South African Police are the enforcers of the brutal apartheid system of racial supremacy used by the white-minority rulers of South Africa to dominate the Black South African majority. This successful protest underlines our support for the struggle for freedom in South Africa and our determination to isolate those who perpetrate or collaborate in the crime of apartheid.

Apartheid has been declared a crime against humanity by the United Nations by a vote last year of 91 to 4, with only the United States, Britain, Portugal, and South Africa casting opposing votes. South Africa is on the offensive in southern Africa in its attempt to maintain its racist system. South Africa is illegally occupying neighboring Namibia (South West Africa), with South African troops fighting nationalist forces there and in Rhodesia, where Zimbabwean nationalist forces are opposing the illegal Ian Smith regime. (END)