URGE WITHDRAWAL OF TENNIS INVITATION TO SOUTH AFRICA

The American Committee on Africa, long-time opponent of racism in sport, has urged the director of the women’s Federation Cup international tennis tournament, which begins Sunday in Philadelphia "to take the politics of racial discrimination out of sport" by rescinding invitations to South Africa and Rhodesia. A telegram was also sent to Betty Ford asking that she remove her name from the list of patrons of an event that includes all-white teams from countries which blatantly stand in violation of the international code of non-racialism in sport (texts attached.)

U.S. gymnasts recently cancelled their annual tour of South Africa in response to widespread protest.

While other international sports bodies end their contact with South Africa, the International Lawn Tennis Federation, which sponsors Davis Cup and Federation Cup competition, seems to be impervious to South Africa’s openly racial discriminatory policies in sport. It has, in fact, reversed its policy toward South Africa. After having suspended South Africa from Davis Cup play in the early 1970’s, it voted to readmit South Africa, and now condemns those nations which refuse to play against South Africa exhibiting extraordinary insensitivity toward India whose people in South Africa (Indian population almost 1 million) are classified as non-white, and therefore share the racial indignities, humiliation, separation and discrimination with the 18,000,000 black people of South Africa.

Mr. Morgan Naidoo, president of the South African Lawn Tennis Union, which advocates an end to racialism in South African tennis, was denied a passport and silenced by the South African government, as he sought to present abroad the case for open tennis competition in South Africa.

At recent meetings in Montreal during the Olympic Games the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which governs international track and field competition, after a full hearing with South Africa present and participating, voted to expel South Africa from all team and individual participation. After due consideration the board was convinced that South Africa had not altered in any meaningful way its practices of racial discrimination against non-whites. FIFA, the world football (soccer) federation expelled South Africa at its recent Montreal meeting as did FINA, world federation of water sport. South Africa had been suspended from these bodies for several years.
before expulsion.

South Africa has been barred from the Olympic Games since 1964 for violating the cardinal Olympic principle that all athletes be selected by meritorious performance in open competition.

Raphael Gould, Director of Special Projects, stated, "The American Committee on Africa protests vigorously any sports contact with a nation which has been repeatedly condemned and found guilty of racism in sport. If any area of human relations should be completely free of the taint of racialism, it is athletic competition. Those who stand for fair play should join the South Africa Non-Racial Olympic Committee and all other groups in speaking out against apartheid in sport."

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The American Committee on Africa was formed in 1953 to protest apartheid. It has given support to liberation and independence movements throughout Africa during the past 23 years.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAMS SENT TO EDY MCGOLDRICK, DIRECTOR - COLGATE PALMOLIVE FEDERATION CUP TOURNAMENT and to BETTY FORD, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ms. Edy McGoldrick, Tournament Director
Colgate Palmolive Federation Cup Tennis Tournament
Box 13519
Phil., PA. 19101

ONE CARDINAL PRINCIPLE IN FAIR SPORT IS PARTICIPATION WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE. SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA'S VIOLATIONS ON THIS PRINCIPLE ARE WELL DOCUMENTED. WE THEREFORE URGE YOU TO TAKE THE "POLITICS" OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OUT OF THIS TOURNAMENT AND RECONSIDER INVITATIONS TO THE ALL-WHITE TEAMS.

Mrs. Betty Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

YOUR LISTING AS A PATRON OF THE COLGATE PALMOLIVE FEDERATION CUP TOURNAMENT IS TERRIBLE FOR YOUR PUBLIC IMAGE. SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA'S VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF FAIR SPORT - DISCRIMINATION DUE TO RACE - IS WELL DOCUMENTED. HELP TAKE THE POLITICS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OUT OF SPORT - AND DISSOCIATE YOURSELF WITH APARTHEID BY DISCONTINUING YOUR PATRONAGE.

Paul Irish
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