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ATHLETES CALL FOR CONTINUED SOUTH AFRICAN SUSPENSION FROM THE OLYMPICS

Jackie Robinson and K.C. Jones headed a group of prominent American athletes who announced their opposition to South Africa's possible readmission to the 1968 Olympic Games at a press conference called today by the American Committee on Africa.

The "new policy" of South Africa in proposing to send a multi-racial team to the Games is a "fraud," Mr. Robinson said, because "this contingent will be selected after four sets of racially segregated trials for Africans, Asians, Coloreds, and Whites." In addition, "the practice of segregated sports and spectators will continue" in South Africa. "If the International Olympic Committee accepts South African tokenism," he continued, "it will appear that international sportsmen condone South Africa's apartheid policy." The athletes' protest coincides with the meeting of the I.O.C. in Grenoble, France which decided to take a mail vote to determine whether or not South Africa will be readmitted to the Games from which she was expelled in 1964.

At the press conference Mr. George Houser, Executive Director of the American Committee on Africa, read a statement issued by Professor Harry Edwards on behalf of San Jose State College athletes endorsing the protest. Church and community groups have also urged Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the I.O.C., and the U.S. Olympic Committee not to equivocate on the principle of non-racialism in sports.

The athletes' statement was released by the American Committee on Africa, an organization committed to helping achieve an American policy supporting independence and equality in Africa. Co-Chairmen of the Committee are A. Philip Randolph and Rev. Donald S. Harrington.

STATEMENTS AND SIGNATORIES ATTACHED