

ACCESS

The American Coordinating
Committee for Equality in Sport & Society

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ARUM BANNED IN BLACK AFRICA; NEW YORK DEMONSTRATION SET FOR 1 AUGUST

ACCESS, the American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society, today announced the progress of the internationalized Stop The Fight Campaign (STFC) which has been organized to stop the John Tate vs. Jerrie Coetzee heavyweight championship fight scheduled for South Africa in October.

Dr. John Dommissie, ACCESS's acting Chairperson, said that STFC will stage a demonstration on Wednesday, August 1st from 12 to 2pm at Top Rank, Inc., the firm of Bob Arum, who is promoting the fight. Dommissie said the demonstration "would mark the escalation of STFC efforts against Arum who has received numerous written and oral pleas from around the world to stop the fight but who has refused to even meet to discuss the basis of the protest." Announcement of the demonstration has followed numerous charges against Arum brought by African sportsmen.

The Supreme Council of Sport in Africa, which governs sport on the continent, has called for Bob Arum to be "banned in free Africa" for his manipulative role in promoting South Africa's propaganda festival. SCSA spokesman said Arum will be unable to promote any fight in free Africa and all African fighters will be strongly discouraged from participating in any fight which Arum promotes. The non-racial South African Council on Sport (SACOS), which will govern sport in South Africa after apartheid has been eliminated, announced that Arum will be banned from South Africa at that time.

The South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SAN-ROC) has now charged that Arum is using South African money to promote his own fortunes. SAN-ROC called Arum's claim that he is helping South African Blacks "preposterous and self-serving." They reiterated their belief that Southern Suns Hotels, which is financing the fight, is using laundered government funds. Further corroboration of Southern Suns role came when it was discovered that as far back as 1974 they financed a South African police team, clearly representing the government, to attend the Police Olympics in San Francisco.

The number of groups backing the protest against the fight and Arum has increased rapidly since STFC was launched. ACCESS, a coalition of 25 national civil rights, religious, political and sports groups, and the NAACP were joined by the Community Council of Greater New York,

COALITION MEMBERS

American Committee on Africa
Americans for Democratic Action
American Friends Service Committee
ARENA, the Institute for Sport and Social Analysis
Clergy and Laity Concerned
Coalition of Concerned Black Americans
Gray Panthers
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity)
South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee
South African Students' Movement
Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
Sports for the People
United Methodist Church, Women's Division,
Board of Global Ministries

NEWS RELEASE

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made up of such diverse groups as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Catholic Youth Organizations, Jewish Philanthropies, the Boys Clubs and the Harlem YMCA, when the CCGNY's Recreation Task Force endorsed the STFC at its July 23rd meeting.

The Southeast Coalition Against Apartheid announced it was joining the campaign and would lead pressure aimed at John Tate. The Knoxville Chapter of the Coalition has made initial contacts with the Tate camp which is based in Knoxville, Tennessee. Ironically, Nashville, Tenn. was the site of the largest sports protest in US history in 1978 when the South African Davis Cup team competed there. The same organizations which led that effort initiated the STFC.

Finally, STFC organizers have been encouraged by the agreement in principle from NBC-TV sports executives to meet in August to discuss their telecast of the Tate-Coetzee fight.

Dr. Dommissie said that the already expressed opposition of Black America's leading boxing figures to the fight will be of invaluable help in stopping the "racial battle." Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes and Don King have all come out in opposition to the Tate-Coetzee fight in South Africa.

Future plans will be announced at the August 1st demonstration.

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