

ACCESS
THE AMERICAN COORDINATING
COMMITTEE FOR EQUALITY IN SPORT AND SOCIETY

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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
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

6 August 1977

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
TO END APARTHEID SPORT

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(Honorary Chairperson of the IACEAS)
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ABRAHAM ORDIA
President, Supreme Council for Sport in Africa
LABAN OYAKA
Organization of African Unity, Liberation
Committee
PERCY SUTTON
President, Borough of Manhattan
RICHARD E. LAPCHICK
ARENA, the Institute for Sport and Social
Analysis (Coordinator of the IACEAS)

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Carter:

I want to thank you for your reply to my
letter about the participation of South Africa
in the Davis Cup that came via Hodding Carter.

I appreciate that it must seem very difficult
for a head of state to make political decisions
about sport. The coalition members of ACCESS
have come together solely for the purpose of
attempting to end all United States sports
contacts with the racist South African teams.
You can see from the groups listed that we
are a diverse group of political, civil rights,
religious and sports groups. There is no
ideological bent to the group other than a
revulsion for racism and apartheid and a strong
commitment to majority rule.

In this light, we applaud your commitment to
human rights and your support for majority
rule in South Africa. As you no doubt are
aware, sport has been one of the most effective
means of making the public aware of what apartheid
does to the non white population of South Africa.
Major mass movements have existed in most
nations that have had sports contacts with South
Africa, especially in the Commonwealth nations.

The OAU has taken strong positions on apartheid
sport, as has the UN. The UN is now drawing up
a convention on apartheid sport, which shall
later become a treaty. I have been testifying
before the UN as this work is done. This clearly
demonstrates that major international political
organizations take this subject very seriously.
It has long been obvious that sports federations
do so as most have excluded South Africa.

President Carter, 6 August 1977, page 2

Up to this year, there have been a handful of nations that have had sports relations with South Africa, thus flaunting the numerous UN resolutions opposing this. In June, one of the most significant events in the history of the anti apartheid sports movement took place at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference.

The Prime Ministers accepted what is known as the Gleneagles Agreement which clearly states the opposition of their governments to sports contacts with South Africa. This has left the United States as the only major nation with teams competing with South Africa where the head of state has not expressed his opposition.

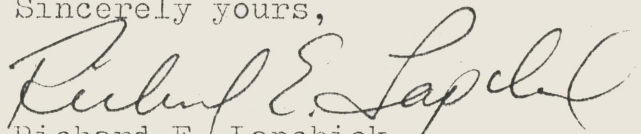
Therefore, the Board of ACCESS, in a decision made this week, has called on you to endorse the Gleneagles Agreement. It is our feeling that your doing so will demonstrate that you are willing to take action to uphold human rights.

ACCESS has also put together the International Advisory Commission to End Apartheid Sport (IACEAS). It is composed of the leaders of the major anti apartheid movements from around the world. Its Honorary Chairperson is Ambassador Leslie O. Harriman (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid at the UN. We (the IACEAS) will be meeting in Lagos prior to the World Conference for Action Against Apartheid (August 22 to 26). We will propose, and feel certain that it will be accepted, a resolution that the World Conference endorse the Gleneagles Agreement.

From this point of view, it would clearly show your leadership if you announced your endorsement prior to this meeting. Time is also important as ACCESS has called for a mass demonstration at the US Open in Forest Hills on September 10th and 11th. We fully expect 1,000 or more demonstrators who will be protesting the USTA's support for South Africa in the International Tennis Federation. The Davis Cup is now a mockery of a championship as Mexico, Canada and Venezuela have withdrawn from the North American Zone, leaving only the United States and South Africa to compete. The demonstrations can be avoided if the USTA announces they will drop their support for South Africa. Your leadership would definitely influence their decision. (Enclosed is a background pamphlet on the issue).

It is our hope that we will hear from you very soon on this crucial and timely matter concerning human justice. Thank you so much for your anticipated consideration.

Sincerely yours,


Richard E. Lapchick
National Chairperson

enclosure