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OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Letter dated 23 May 1985 from the Acting Chairman of the Special
Committee against Apartheid addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Declaration adopted by the International Conference on Sports Boycott against South Africa, which was held in Paris from 16 to 18 May 1985.

The International Conference was organized by the Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee.

I should be grateful if the Declaration could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Uddhav Deo BHATT
Acting Chairman of the
Special Committee against Apartheid

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Declaration adopted by the Second International Conference
on Sports Boycott against South Africa

The Second International Conference on Sports Boycott against South Africa was convened in Paris by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in co-operation with the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee from 16 to 19 May 1985.

This Conference brings together sportsmen and women, sports administrators, Government representatives and national and international bodies and the national liberation movements of southern Africa, united in their commitment to fair play in sport. The large and widely representative attendance from every continent and region is testimony to the depth of international concern at the present situation in South Africa. It provides an opportunity to review the progress made since delegates last met in London in 1983 and to plan strategies for the immediate future. The commitment to withhold collaboration from South Africa in sport and other fields was recognized by all as being vital to the efforts of the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa to liberate themselves from the slavery that is apartheid.

The Conference is held at a time when the apartheid régime is involved in large-scale attacks on the people of South Africa, where state violence and death have become part of the routine of daily life. Hundreds of opponents of the apartheid system, including sportsmen, have been arrested, and many working for peaceful change have been charged with high treason and now face charges which carry the death penalty.

Since the London Conference, too, a new constitutional arrangement has been established in South Africa which further entrenches apartheid and denies totally any political role for the African majority in the national parliament or national life. The international response has been to deny any legitimacy whatsoever to this constitutional charade.

Internationally, South Africa has embarked on a massive public relations exercise of misinformation in an endeavour to create the illusion of a society in transition. The Conference observes that cosmetic legal changes are much in vogue, but that meaningful reform is wholly absent as apartheid by definition defies reform. The propaganda offensive is directed at Western public opinion to create an illusion of change. Apartheid is not being dismantled but repackaged. The harsh realities of day-to-day life in the African townships and in the so-called "homelands" are unaffected, with the grim reality of institutionalized racism remaining as sordid and unremitting as ever. The Conference notes that a recent report of the United Nations Human Rights Commission characterizes apartheid South Africa as representing a "manifestation of a form of genocide", a system of modern-day collective slavery, and a crime against humanity.

The Conference observes that South Africa singles itself out for selective and concerted action and condemnation by the international community because in that country, and in that country alone, a minority racial group clings to power and privilege, seeking to entrench itself for ever on a basis that denies every fundamental right and freedom to its overwhelming majority.

The Conference observes that the cancerous infection of apartheid must be removed as a priority because its persistence in South Africa diminishes the moral authority of the international community to promote respect for human rights throughout the world.

Sport is not played between Governments; it is played between peoples. While we may condemn the actions of a repressive government, we do so because of its abuse of its own people, and in the name of their human rights. In playing sport with them, our people can express solidarity and support, even as we work to remedy the situation.

By contrast, South African society is so organized that, by its very nature, apartheid controls the structures of sport itself. It decrees that schools be segregated, and once segregated that they remain isolated from each other. Under apartheid, black and white must not grow up together; each is not allowed to recognize the intrinsic human worth of the other. Apartheid, too, governs access to facilities, who may play against whom and where, and why. "Mixed" sport, when permitted, takes place under licence or special dispensation; it never takes place by right. To have sporting contact with South Africa is thus, in a very real sense, to play sport with apartheid. Just as international sports contact strengthens apartheid, so to play with apartheid is to lend succour and support to the system itself. Apartheid violates and rejects the principles of fair play interest in and fundamental to all sport.

The Conference notes that since 1983, and especially in the last 12 months, there has been a massive upsurge of opposition to the policies of the apartheid régime within South Africa itself. This is manifested in thousands of men, women and children demonstrating their total rejection of the very institutions of the apartheid state, in schools, factories, farms, churches and city streets. To collaborate with South Africa in this situation is actively to assist in the maintenance of the status quo at a time when racial tyranny is escalating, even by its own standards, the level of violence against the people. To remain indifferent is equally to condone the worst form of racism of our own time. The Conference notes that the anti-racist sports organizations in South Africa have called for the total isolation of South African sport and have themselves deliberately sacrificed all opportunity of participating in international sport until apartheid is dismantled.

Sports grounds have become the scene of political protests, and even a funeral ceremony, and have thus become in a very real sense a part of the battlefield for the liberation of South Africa. As apartheid permeates every aspect of South African life, sports can never be prised from the iron grip of apartheid. Thus South Africa itself has ensured that sport and politics are inextricably fused.

In reviewing other events since the London Conference, participants noted the many successes of the international campaign which has now reached the point where South Africa has been excluded from the overwhelming number of major international sports events. South African participation is now the exception rather than the rule, and so when it does occur this becomes newsworthy as a result of this success. The Conference applauds the persistence and perseverance of sportsmen and women, their organizations and Governments who have determinedly upheld and extended the isolation of South Africa.

The Conference notes that South African sports administrators, actively aided by their Government and its special sports offices and front organizations abroad, have embarked upon a series of endeavours to force the acceptance of South Africa back into the international arena. However, despite the prodigious amount of money expended on it, this campaign has shown no sign of success and South Africa is now prepared to wreck international sport by funding "rebel" tours. The Conference calls for continued vigilance on the part of the international sporting community against this threat to its integrity.

The Conference congratulates the many sportsmen and women throughout the world who have declined, on principle, vast sums of money to visit South Africa and play there. Among them, Conference delegates mentioned Viv Richards (cricket, Antigua), Larry Holmes (boxing, United States of America), John McEnroe (tennis, United States of America), Ian Botham (cricket, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Mark Ella (rugby, Australia). However, those who choose to succumb to the blandishments of South Africa actively undermine the ideals of international sports.

The Conference recalls the special responsibility borne by sports administrators, such as M. Albert Ferrasse (the head of the French Rugby Football Union), who in fraternizing with racist sports bodies in South Africa become active apologists in their actions and therefore merit the strongest condemnation. The political intrigue of such sports administrators places intolerable pressures on young and inexperienced sportsmen and women to follow their lead and maintain contact with apartheid sport.

The Conference urges all sportsmen and women, and national and international organizations, to recognize that there can be no question of South Africa's rehabilitation in international competition so long as apartheid continues to exist, since it is impossible to remove apartheid from sport without at the same time abandoning apartheid in all its aspects.

The Conference, reaffirming its full support for the International Declaration against Apartheid in Sports adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1977 and in order to make the international campaign even more effective,

HEREBY:

1. Reaffirms the London Declaration on Apartheid Sports adopted in 1983 and renews its appeal to sportsmen and women, as adopted by that Conference, to refuse to tour South Africa until the apartheid system is ended. The Conference further

urges national and international bodies to give the full text of the London Appeal the widest possible dissemination.

2. Affirms its support for the International Olympic Committee's position that South Africa should not be readmitted into the Olympic Movement until apartheid is ended. It therefore urges the International Olympic Committee to adopt a code of conduct to discourage sports contacts with South Africa and to take the disciplinary powers necessary to deal effectively with any of its affiliates that transgresses against the international campaign. The Conference applauds the rejection by the International Olympic Committee of a proposal that a Commission of Inquiry be sent to South Africa, on the basis that as long as apartheid exists there can be no normal sport in that country for a Commission to investigate. In this context, the Conference congratulates the Association of National Olympic Committees on their public declaration of intent to campaign for the exclusion of South Africa from all remaining international sports federations.

3. Declares that National Olympic Committees should direct their affiliates both to implement the international campaign to the full and to secure the expulsion of South Africa from the remaining federations to which it belongs. National Olympic Committees have a duty to ensure that the clear position of the Association of National Olympic Committees is implemented without delay, and in particular to take action against affiliated codes within their jurisdiction that breach the campaign by collaborating with South Africa.

4. Appeals to non-Olympic sports to play a full part in the international campaign. Because of their mass appeal, some of these sports are of special significance for South Africa, most notably cricket and rugby. The Conference notes that South Africa is no longer a member of the International Cricket Conference, but that there is a heavy traffic of cricketers between South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in their respective off-seasons. The International Cricket Conference must develop, as a matter of urgency, a strategy which would effectively end this most significant degree of sports contact as this constitutes the most constant violation of the international campaign.

The Conference applauds those cricketing countries who have disciplined cricketers for playing in South Africa, most notably those who have taken part in so-called "rebel" tours. In particular it applauds as most appropriate the measures taken by the West Indies and Sri Lanka cricket authorities to bar those players from representative cricket for the rest of their cricketing careers.

The Conference especially commends the Government of Guyana for its uncompromising stand against apartheid sport and its insistence that sportsmen and women who have competed in South Africa be not allowed entry into Guyana. With regard to next year's English cricket tour of the West Indies, the Conference appeals to the Caribbean Governments to take appropriate measures to ensure that no member of the MCC team who has participated in cricketing activities in South Africa be admitted to their respective countries.

5. Notes that rugby persists in being the only major team sport to defy the international campaign by allowing representative tours. This is due to the wholly

discriminatory and undemocratic nature of the composition of the International Rugby Board, whose membership covers only a small minority of rugby-playing countries, including South Africa. The Conference denounces the provocative acts of the International Rugby Board in fostering tours to South Africa which are motivated by political considerations and a desire to support apartheid South Africa, in a reckless disregard of the damage inflicted on the sport itself. The international community thus has a special obligation to take every possible step to compel the International Rugby Board to abandon its systematic support for apartheid South Africa.

6. Strongly condemns the insistence of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union on touring South Africa in July 1985, regardless of cost and in defiance of domestic public opinion. The widespread damage this is inflicting on the country's reputation abroad, and on rugby in New Zealand, is by itself evidence of the determination of the rugby officials concerned to provide aid and comfort to apartheid sport. Their claims that rugby has brought about changes in South Africa are groundless distortions of the truth and have been convincingly repudiated by authoritative South African sources on numerous occasions.

Although the present New Zealand Government has gone a long way in a very short time in its support of the international campaign, it has not yet succeeded in halting this gross violation of the international sports boycott, so that further international action may become unavoidable. It is essential that all New Zealand sports organizations give every assistance to the continuing efforts of the New Zealand Government to abort the rugby tour. Should these prove ineffective, the country's sports organizations must inevitably share some responsibility for the tour proceeding. The consequences could well be grave for New Zealand sport.

For the first time, resistance to such a tour is likely to surface in mass demonstrations inside South Africa. The New Zealand team, its administrators and its supporters must each bear a major and personal responsibility for any tragic consequences arising from the violence of the South African police and army against the demonstrators.

The Conference therefore calls, even at this late stage, for the cancellation of the tour.

7. Warns of the grave consequences should the proposed 1986 British and Irish Lions Rugby tour proceed, particularly recognizing the special implications for Scotland. The Conference calls for an early decision not to proceed, in order to dispel increasing disquiet.

8. Issues a special appeal to the democratic government of Argentina, a country which in recent years has itself lived through the stark horror of tyranny and widespread denial of basic human rights, to refuse use of its facilities to those in transit to and from South Africa in violation of the international campaign.

9. Notes that since the 1983 London Conference sports coaches at American universities have begun to recruit sportsmen and women from South Africa to train

and compete on scholarships in the United States. These athletes are then used for political purposes in an attempt to undermine the international campaign. The Conference appeals to university authorities to stop this support of apartheid sport and for the names of the coaches to be included in the United Nations Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa. Coaches, like other sportsmen and women, must choose between South Africa and the other countries from which they recruit their talent. The names of senior officials of national or other sporting organizations whose members engage in sporting contact with South Africa should also be added to the Register.

10. Observes that increasingly, with the success of the campaign against apartheid generally, private firms are realizing that it is no longer in their commercial interests to associate their names with sports that collaborate with South Africa. This is a most welcome development and is illustrated vividly at present in New Zealand by the withdrawal of sponsorship from rugby. The Conference appeals to sponsors of sports with South African connections to discontinue their support through sponsorship and in particular appeals to Renault (a State-owned French Company), and other world-wide motoring interests, to discontinue their sponsorship of the South African Grand Prix.

11. Expresses satisfaction with the effects of the United Nations Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa which has resulted in a number of countries and sports organizations taking action against sports teams and individuals who have competed in South Africa. This has significantly discouraged other sportsmen and women from participating in South African sports events. The Conference deplores the policy of the South African régime and its sports administrators of offering inflated sums of money to individuals to ignore the effects of the United Nations Register. The Conference therefore urges all Governments that support the international campaign to make maximum use of the Register to ensure that no individuals listed in the Register are permitted to enter or transit their countries. Further, it urges all Governments to deny transit facilities to all sportsmen and women travelling to or from South Africa.

12. Condemns the issue, use and recognition of passports of convenience obtained by South African sportsmen and women deliberately to circumvent the international boycott of apartheid sport. It deplores the fact that one South African athlete, who obtained British citizenship in a record 10 days in order to participate in the 1984 Olympic Games, is still permitted to compete in international events, although she remains effectively resident in South Africa and has never taken up a British domicile.

The Conference appeals to Governments and sports organizations to exclude South African residents from their teams, and it requests Governments and sports organizations not to allow foreign athletes domiciled in South Africa, regardless of their passports, to compete internationally.

13. Recognizes that the media bears a special responsibility to portray accurately the reality of life in South Africa under apartheid, a reality which the South African propaganda campaign endeavours to distort. A key element in this propaganda campaign is the offering of free television programmes of sports events

taking place in South Africa in an attempt to portray South Africa internationally as a normal and tranquil society. The Conference calls upon television and radio networks to decline offers of such programmes. Likewise, it calls upon journalists to decline "free" offers of trips to South Africa and Namibia under the auspices of the South African Government or their "front" organizations, since the press can only report fully and fairly on news events if it does so independently of co-operation with the South African authorities.

14. Notes the progress to date in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the drafting of an International Convention against Apartheid in Sports and urges the Committee to bring its work to an early completion so as to provide a further international legal framework for the total isolation of apartheid sport. The Convention should provide for enforcement measures to ensure that appropriate sanctions are taken against those who collaborate directly or indirectly with South Africa in sport. The Conference makes a special appeal to States to bring the Convention into force by speedy ratification, following its adoption by the General Assembly.

15. Calls upon all international and national sports bodies to conduct educational programmes for athletes, coaches and sports administrators in order to ensure that they fully understand the reasons for the international campaign against apartheid sport. This could include appropriate photographic and informational displays at the venues of major national and international events.

16. Solemnly warns that desperate rearguard action by the apartheid régime lies ahead that will test the will of the world community outside, and that of the South African majority within. In the struggle for liberation, the efforts of the international community will be crucial in sustaining the morale of those oppressed by apartheid, and their resolve to resist. It will be the convergence of international support from outside together with the resolute determination of the oppressed that will bring about an end to apartheid. That convergence is now in sight, and the international campaign must sustain that effort to the final victory. Sport has a vital role to play.
