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PRESS RELEASE:

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SUBJECT - THE SASF STANDPOINT TO TALKS WITH RIVAL BODIES

The SOUTH AFRICAN SOCCER FEDERATION (SASF) is committed to playing non-racial soccer in a non-racial democratic society. The SASF rejects apartheid in toto because it impinges on the fundamental rights of the disenfranchised people.

In recent years the SASF has refused to have dialogue with rival soccer bodies because previous talks initiated by itself were unsuccessful. The rival bodies refused to work outside the framework of apartheid. To have accommodated the rival bodies' stance would, in effect, have been to give credibility to token mixing in the sportsfields while socially, apartheid policies continue to have devastating effects on the majority of the people.

The SASF has not been approached by any rival soccer body and nor has it rejected any meaningful talks based on its non-racial principles and policies.

It must be clearly stated that the SASF is not opposed to any talks with any organisation, provided the following standpoints are unequivocally accepted:-

- *** Sports cannot be viewed in isolation from the rest of society. Therefore the removal of all forms of discrimination from within the sportsfields cannot in itself be a basis for claims that sport is non-racial in South Africa;
- *** A non-racial sports structure must address itself to a South African society which will become non-racial in all walks of life;
- *** In acknowledging the need for fundamental changes in the societal structure, sports organisations must accept, ipso facto, that as a pre-requisite for non-racial sport to be played at all levels, no tours shall take place to and from South Africa until the broader struggle for non-racialism is achieved;

- *** It would be necessary for soccer bodies who presently shelter under government policy to denounce apartheid as an obstacle to a free sports society before their overtures for talks are acceptable;
- *** Soccer bodies committed to a free sports society cannot, because of that very commitment, operate within or collaborate with the State or any of its agencies.

The SASF rejects allegations made in certain quarters of dubious repute that the Federation is an organisation of Indians and Coloureds. Historically, the SASF enjoys a proud tradition and track-record of having an open membership policy without reference to race, colour or creed. The SASF considers itself to be a peoples organisation involved in a peoples struggle in the campaign against apartheid at all levels. Any person who subscribes to our non-racial principles and policies is free to join the ranks of the SASF.

While the SASF is not opposed to talks with any organisation that would positively identify with its standpoints, it will reject out of hand any meaningless talks based on tokenism. It follows therefore that any association with organisations that expound a policy of multi-nationalism will not be acceptable to the SASF because of the divisive nature of the said policy.

R. Reddy
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PRESIDENT
SOUTH AFRICAN SOCCER FEDERATION

DURBAN
1985 JULY 10

Collection Number: AG3403

Collection Name: Non-racial Sports History Project

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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