

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UNITE! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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The Secretary
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Our dear Friends . .

We wish to reiterate our sentiments and opposition - expressed in an earlier letter - to the coming All Blacks rugby tour of S.A. Last week S African security police swooped on the offices of the UDF and removed all our files and documents. We are, therefore, unable to refer to previous correspondence but can only affirm what we have already said on this matter.

Over the last few years, and largely due to growing international opposition to Apartheid, the S African government has allowed for some cosmetic integration of sport in order to undercut the effectiveness of foreign protest against this system. Thus Errol Tobias and Williams were included in the Springbok squad - to window dress Apartheid. But rugby clubs remain thoroughly segregated and the best rugby fields are reserved for Whites where Blacks have very few and unequipped grounds.

Rugby grounds such as Loftus Versfeld, Boet, Erasmus and New Lands are located in White areas and are thus accessible only to Whites. Blacks who are prevented by influx and pass laws to move and stay in the cities need special permits - which are hardly obtainable - to play on these grounds. And such permits are extremely difficult to obtain. If they should play there whenever it suits them and without such special permits they would be arrested for trespass and charged under one of the many city by-laws.

Similarly professional soccer teams have been allowed to mix Black and White players and compete against each other. The professional league involves only sixteen football clubs. However, the entire amateur ranks remain segregated. Again the White amateur players have the best football grounds and professional coaches. Not only are Black amateurs without coaches, they play on grounds which do not even have turf. But because amateur soccer is out of sight of the international community that sector may be left with the impression that there is no Apartheid in S A soccer.

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These disparities can be detailed in every sport - swimming, tennis, boxing, etc. They are a source of deep dissatisfaction and disadvantage on the part of the Black majority. It cannot be expected that we can welcome the All Blacks to this country because they will be the guests of the privileged section of S A's population. They will play on pitches which are forbidden ground to our people and we should like these sentiments communicated to them.

If in the past our opposition to similar tours has not been effectively demonstrated it is only because of the dire consequences for us who live under the Apartheid regime. But even this fear of reprisal by the White rulers is being overcome and the dawn of open public protest against foreign sportpersons who benefit from Apartheid is with us. We are already examining avenues of peaceful protest against the All Blacks tour and, if need be we shall go to gaol.

Once more, we urge HART and other progressive New Zealanders to intensify its efforts to dissuade the All Blacks from coming to this country. We commend you to health and wishes of success for our joint campaign. Amandla!!

Yours in the struggle for a non-racial world.

M P LEKOTA
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