

*P. H. ...*

# MEMORANDUM

PREPARED BY AZAD CRICKET  
CLUB FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
CRICKET BOARD COMMISSION  
OF INQUIRY INTO THE LENASIA  
CRICKET STADIUM (M.R. VARACHIA)  
15th July 1986



1. INTRODUCTION

In 1976 our club refused to play "normal cricket" in the Transvaal inspite of South African Cricket Board of Control and Transvaal Cricket Federation's democratic decisions to implement "normal cricket".

We then undertook a campaign to expose "normal cricket" for what it was. Our local and National campaign culminated in the formation of the Transvaal Cricket Board in 1977. Our fight against such tremendous odds in the Transvaal is now history.

Over the years we have contributed greatly towards the progress of the Transvaal Cricket Board.

At this stage in our liberation struggle we refuse to be compromised by Transvaal Cricket Board and Mr. A. Mawgera's decision to use the Lenasia Stadium including the Glass House on Johannesburg Cricket Council's conditions.

2. CREDENTIALS

Our Club is now 43 years old. We have always put our and SACOS principles ahead of cricket. It is for these SACOS principles we fought in the past and we will continue to fight now and in the future.

Not that we have neglected our cricket duties. We have the most number of teams in the Transvaal Cricket Board. We have three Senior and four Junior Teams. This is the most number of teams any club has in the Transvaal Cricket Board.

Also see copies of extracts from our 40th annivesary brochure on page 5.

3. OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DESTRUCTION OF "NORMAL CRICKET" AND FORMATION OF TRANSVAAL CRICKET BOARD.

In 1976 as soon as we were suspended by Transvaal Cricket Federation, for refusing to play "normal cricket" we spend much time and effort exposing how "normal cricket" contravened SACOS principles and beliefs. Administrators who suspended us in 1976 are still officials of the Johannesburg Cricket Council. We did not play any cricket for the rest of that season.

Also see extracts from our 40th Annivesary brochure. Page 6,7,8.

4. JOHANNESBURG CRICKET COUNCIL (J.C.C.)

J.C.C. was initially made up of two Transvaal Cricket Federation units i.e Western Districts and WITS. The Johannesburg City Council recognized them for allocations of playing fields in Lenasia. When "normal cricket" was introduced, all the clubs from the 2 above units joined the Transvaal Cricket Board. Therefore the J.C.C. is now only made up of a few individuals who are overtly anti SACOS and they represent nobody. In spite of this non representation, J.C.C. still exist and are recognised by the City Council.

In the past J.C.C. tried very hard to disrrupt and destroy our Board. Presently J.C.C. officials are also officials of Transvaal Cricket Council.

They foster and promote apartheid sports. They are thus the enemies of our people and our struggle. They were and will always be unacceptable to us.

For the above reasons, the Board has actively fought J.C.C. and won many victories in acquiring playing facilities in Lenasia.

Presently the J.C.C. has a lease with the City Council over the Lenasia Stadium. We believe the City Council is acting unfairly in maintaining their relations with J.C.C.

In the past, while we were struggling, we refused to write to the J.C.C. to obtain playing fields in Lenasia. We did not give them the respectability and acceptance which they are seeking all the time.

Our aim now is to destroy J.C.C. and obtain the Lenasia Stadium with pride and dignity.

5. PLAYING FIELDS

Playing fields in Johannesburg are controlled by the City Council. The City Council allocated fields to previously recognized bodies. Therefore the Board was allocated fields in Bosmont and Newclare areas. The playing fields in Lenasia were allocated to J.C.C. This was done irrespective of the number of teams affiliated to the previously recognized body.

City Council insisted that in order to obtain playing fields in Lenasia, we had to write to the J.C.C. Infact even J.C.C. publicly confirmed that. In spite of our shortage of playing fields we still refused to write to J.C.C.

With time the influx of teams to the T.C.B. <sup>CONTINUED.</sup> On the other hand empty fields was a common site in Lenasia. T.C.B. decided to invade and use the fields in Lenasia without J.C.C. or City Council's permission. Confrontation with T.C.C. teams we easily won. The whole year we continued to play on upprepared wickets. The following year, although J.C.C. was still in existence, the City Council officially allocated the playing fields in Lenasia to us.

This proves that the City Council will change its policy if sufficient pressure is applied.

So we obtained the playing fields. Without ever writing and giving J.C.C. respectability and acceptance.

6. STADIUM:

The Board was formed in 1977 with 8 teams and a limited number of people. Many things we did was on mutual trust. Some of the decisions were kept confidential to avoid alerting our opposition. In this manner we obtained all the playing fields in Johannesburg, we kicked J.C.C. and their coaches out of all our schools and we totally broke T.C.C.'s playing strength in our areas.

To obtain the Lenasia Stadium(M.R. VARACHIA) a similar strategy was drawn up. The President Mangera was given permission at one stage to consult lawyers and to find possible ways in which the lease could be obtained from the City Council.

To date Mr. Mangera has never presented the executive or council meeting with any information except to say that some progress

was made but the rest was confidential.

Mr. Mangera nor our lawyers ever managed to obtain the lease with J.C.C. holds.

We learned at great cost that our battle for the stadium has been misguided and our struggle compromised.

In 1980 when the stadium was officially opened, we staged a massive demonstration outside the stadium. Some of our players were arrested and spend a night in prison. There were more police than spectators at this opening. This was also a great victory for us.

In 1983/84 the T.C.C. were left with only two teams from Lenasia playing in the 5th Division. The stadium was thus used by T.C.C. for these teams for their 5th Division fixtures. The Board decided to invade and use the stadium on the days the stadium wicket was prepared for these minor fixtures. This was excellent strategy as we were now confronting our enemies head on. The 1st invasion was uneventful. On the 2nd occasion the police were called. Our teams together with our then secretary Mr. A. Gandubhai stood firm. The T.C.C. teams were chased away and we continued with our game. This again was a great victory for us.

Following these invasions, the authorities ordered for the stadium pitch to be dug up. This adverse publicity was another victory for us.

Following this, according to Mr. Mangera, he was contacted telephonically by the City Council and the stadium was offered to the T.C.B. Mr. Mangera's promise that a letter from the City Council confirming this, offer never arrived, even to this day. An interpromvial was staged at the stadium. Mr. Mangera came with the keys to the glass house which raised great suspicion on this occasion.

For the first time in October 1985, Mr. Mangera, phoned our chairman Dr. Gopal that he had received a letter from the City Council offering the stadium to T.C.B. and the matter will be discussed at the Council meeting to be held on the 5th November 1985.

Our club convened an urgent meeting and a letter was immediately written to the Board. Letter enclosed. Dated 2nd November ANNETURE "A".

At the Council meeting a letter from the City Council was tabled giving conditions under which T.C.B could use the stadium. The letter clearly stated that J.C.C. would keep the lease. The T.C.B. has never negotiated with J.C.C. directly or indirectly in the past. The minutes of this meeting says it all. Even at this stage Mr. Mangera did not differ with the views expressed and decision taken on this issue.

At the next Council meeting held on the 3rd of December 1985, a reply from the City Council which stated that the lease included everything was tabled. The chairman without allowing any discussion obtained a simple majority to use the stadium including the glass house. The decision infact meant that T.C.B. had to deal directly or indirectly with J.C.C. to obtain the stadium. For the first time, this gave J.C.C. the respectability and acceptance they sought for such a long time. For some unexplained reason, what initially seemed like confrontation has now turned out to be collaboration. Mr. Mangera was made fully aware of the implication of this decision. Our club had an emergency meeting and a letter was written to the Board.

See letter dated 7th December 1985. The chairman abused his position and mutual trust that existed in T.C.B.

On 26th January 1986 we were fixured to play ~~IN~~ the stadium but the whole week prior to this fixture, this venue was advertised for a Johannesburg Centenary event in the local daily. Proof is enclosed. Our letter to T.C.B. is self explanatory and a copy is enclosed.

This decision to use the stadium has split the Board, teams and families but Mr. Mangerera has shown no concern to remedy the division. He has now joined the other anti SACOS sports which utilize this venue.

We conclude by stating that we are not going to be compromised by a simple vote on a crucial constitutional matter. We would also like to state our committment to obtaining the stadium the right way.

# SOUTH AFRICAN NON-RACIAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Azad's decision not to join the bandwagon of white South Africa's so-called "normal" cricket has now been completely vindicated. At the time of writing I believe the "normal" Transvaal Cricket Council has lots all its affiliates from Lenasia. We hope Soweto and Eldorado Park will soon follow.

Some might consider it wrong to accuse all the Blacks who moved over to "normal" cricket as sell-outs and stooges. Undoubtedly, there were many opportunists and many a naive cricketer, out of sheer honesty and enthusiasm, followed suit. But any Black still hanging on to the bandwagon must certainly be an opportunist or one who is being forced into submission.

Therefore, Azad's sustained unwavering stand must be highly commended.

White South Africa, having failed to deceive the world with veneration over apartheid sport, has now turned to luring international stars by offering astronomical sums of money which have been accrued out of black exploitation. But resistance and opposition in Soweto has shown how easy it can be to deflate even this sophisticated approach. We hope that the recent failure of the football masquerade will hasten the unity of all black sportsmen and women into one formidable opposition. The sooner this is achieved the sooner apartheid sport will fall.

And for those who still wish to collaborate with the apartheid rulers and their sports administrators may I conclude by echoing the words of Benjamin Franklin:

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Sam Ramsamy, London, 10 September, 1982.

## Credentials

### MESSAGE FROM S.A. CRICKET BOARD

On behalf of the South African Cricket Board, I am deeply honoured to congratulate the Azad Cricket Club on 40 years of existence within the non-racial code of sport.

I have been privileged to visit Lenasia a short time ago and I am therefore deeply conscious of the strong principle which in 1976, prevented the Club from joining the ranks of S.A.C.U.

If one thinks back to 1976 and the delight with which many people changed their stance and principles as regards apartheid, then only does one realize the steadfastness of the members of the Azad Cricket Club.

As I am also the President of the Western Province Cricket Board, who, like your Club stood virtually alone in the principled stand on which SACOS was founded. I know that it took courage and a deep dedication to the principles that all human beings are created equal.

I reiterate that the stand of the Azad Cricket Club, which contributed so considerably to the formation of the Transvaal Cricket Board, is one of the great consequences, when the history of cricket in South Africa will be resolved and recorded.

Hassan Howa, President of S.A.C.B.

### THE POTCH UNITED CRICKET CLUB

In 1976 with the advent of so-called normal-cricket in the Transvaal, a band of gallant and worthy men from the Azads Cricket Club undertook a venture that even they, we are sure, did not realise would bring such staggering and magnificent success. For some 6 years later The Transvaal Cricket Board had grown from 8 teams to a mammoth 50. And Azads can rightfully claim to be trail-blazers and pioneers of the T.C.B. For they played a great part, among others, to get the Board off the ground, and for this we at the Potch United C.C., and we are sure, the entire T.C.B. are greatly indebted to them.

It must be appreciated that the sacrifice of not playing actively for one full season can have frightful consequences. Membership could dwindle as a result and the entire club could disintegrate if the right spirit and guidelines are not adhered to.

Principles played a fascinating part in this entire episode. That Azads could maintain and even strengthen their teams in the inaugural season of the T.C.B. speaks volumes for itself. These boys' have grown to men, and even more, overnight they proved a great many "influential" people of the time wrong. They steadfastly stood by the adage of "no normal sports in an abnormal society," and what is more they were intent on spreading the message wider and deeper into the hearts and minds of the people. The fact that the T.C.B. now have some 50 teams, proves to all and

gallant men would hold true and carry the day. It must be gratifying to know that you have succeeded in achieving your objectives in the short term, and such success can only spur you on to even greater deeds. In our own little way we know how sweet this must taste to Azads for we have come a long way together since 76.

In the coming years we anticipate the struggle to intensify. We know the task to maintain the T.C.B. in its present form is going to be difficult. We fully realise the implications of ensuring that every cricketer irrespective of skin pigmentation must be given his rightful place in the sun. And ultimately we know that there can be no normal sport in an abnormal Society. Bearing all this in mind, we are reassured to know that **AZADS WILL BE THERE IN THE END, IN BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT.**

At the end of the day, when the stumps are drawn, we can look back at the past 6 years and feel satisfied and gratified that we have been afforded the opportunity of knowing and playing Azads. We wish to thank them warmly for their willingness to assist us in our numerous club ventures, and we insist on reciprocating. We take this opportunity of wishing the Azad Cricket Club a grand 40th Anniversary, and may you all live to see this grand Club live to be yet another 40 years and more.

God Bless You All.

# Azad Cricket Club's Contribution to Non-Racial Cricket in the Transvaal - 1976

On the 23rd September, 1976, the Federal Information Council of the Nationalist Party on behalf of the then Prime Minister B. J. Vorster, issued a statement regarding the future sports policy for South Africa. Basically what the policy amounted to was this: (a) It was a policy of multi-nationalism; (b) Decision making left to the individual governing bodies; (c) However, due regard still had to be given to existing laws and this therefore meant no change in apartheid laws e.g. no liquor to be served to members of other race groups in the same room and also no change in the permit system. Part of the policy says that players are not allowed to join different race group clubs. It is for this reason that the sports policy has been changed, namely to give all race groups the opportunity to play against each other at club level. Members of each and every population group have to join their own clubs. The provincial boards have to apply for the necessary permits.

The Witwatersrand Cricket Union, an affiliate of the Transvaal Cricket Federation, which together with the White Transvaal Cricket Union were responsible for the implementation of the so called normal cricket in the Republic in 1976. The following incidences took place in implementing so called "normal cricket".

1. Participation of S.A. in the Gillette Cup competition despite strong opposition by the S.A.C.B.O.C.
2. Statement by Mr. Billy Woodin denying any knowledge of a multi-racial set up.
3. Refusal by Balfour Park to play Mr. Habane and this being confirmed as correct policy by the Minister of Sport.
4. Refusal by Balfour Park Club to serve drinks to the Crescent players in their bars.
5. Other provinces not reaching an agreement in implementing normal cricket thus depriving our S.A.C.B.O.C. players of provincial level cricket.

After many discussions at our Club meetings, players and officials felt that the Club's survival was at stake. The question was whether to play in this so called "normal cricket" set up or not. On the 26th October, 1976, the Azad Cricket Club wrote to the Witwatersrand Cricket Union asking for clarification on the above incidents and refused to participate in any fixtures until absolute clarification was received. We received a reply advising us of our withdrawal from League competition but no explanation to the various incidences which were taking place!! We wrote back on the 10th November 1976 asking for an urgent council meeting of the Witwatersrand Cricket Union to discuss and clarify issues which contradicted all assurances given at the summit conference and by the nine men motivating committee in January 1976

The Azad Cricket Club wrote the following letter to all S.A.C.B.O.C. affiliates:

- \* Letter dated 19/11/1976.  
We received the following reply from Witwatersrand Cricket Union:
- \* Letter dated 23/12/1976.  
Our reply to the above letter:
- \* Letter dated 15/1/1977.  
Reply to our letter from the Witwatersrand Cricket Union:
- \* Letter dated 17/2/1977.  
The Club felt that due to all the unsatisfactory answers received from the Witwatersrand Cricket Union and our unconstitutional suspension from the Union, we should issue a press statement. We issued the following:
- \* Press statement.

Azad Cricket Club remained in the cricket wilderness from October 1976 to January 1977. The Club played a few friendlies with Potchefstroom United C.C. (who also refused to play in the so called "normal cricket"). We felt that an alternative cricket board should be founded. Many Clubs continued to play in the Transvaal Cricket Union although they were very dissatisfied but had nowhere else to play.

In February 1977 we began campaigning for an alternative non racial cricket body. Azad players and officials went personally to each and every former S.A.C.B.O.C. club and urged them to play in the new cricket body. In September 1977, the Transvaal Cricket Board was formed. The following officials were elected:

- Hon. President: Mr. P. Peffer
- Hon. Vice President: Mr. I. Bundwini, Dr. A. Asvat
- Hon. Secretary: Mr. A.G. Gandabhal
- Treasurer: Mr. A. Mangera
- Secretary: Mr. A. Hassen

Sincerity of conviction and purity of motive will surely gain the day, and even a small minority, armed with these is surely destined to prevail against all odds.

— VIVEKANANDA

### (Letter Dated 19th November, 1976)

S.A.C.B.O.C. Affiliates  
Honorary Secretary

Dear Sir,

We are an affiliate of Witwatersrand Cricket Union which, in turn, is an affiliate of Transvaal Cricket Federation. We have, as per our attached letters to Witwatersrand Cricket Union, withdrawn from further participation in so-called "normal cricket" because there will never be satisfactory answers to the discrepancies mentioned in these letters.

The progress thus far has proved that the present cricket is being played under the Government's Multinational Policy as set out in the letter dated 22nd October 1976 sent to Crescent Cricket Club by the Department of Sport, a copy of which is attached.

In the Transvaal, some S.A.C.B.O.C. officials and players have accepted this multinational set-up in the guise of "normal cricket" at any cost. Players and officials alike who continued to adhere to S.A.C.B.O.C. principle are compelled by the upsurge of this new-found bluff in the guise of normal cricket to withdraw lest they too lend credibility to this new set-up.

The statement made by the Jeppe Old Boys Cricket Club (a white club affiliated to the Transvaal Cricket Union) that they are playing under the Government's Multinational Policy. Is this not tantamount to a total contradiction of S.A.C.B.O.C.'s principles of normal multiracial cricket as we have always understood them to be? In view of claim made that "normal cricket" has been established in the Transvaal, should not the bridge committed by Jeppe Old Boys Cricket Club be considered serious enough to be challenged by Mr. Varachia. He is both the Chairman of the Nineman Motivating Committee and also is the Chairman of the Transvaal Cricket Federation which body together with the Transvaal Cricket Union (parent body of Jeppe Old Boys Cricket Club) are responsible for the establishment of so-called "normal cricket" in the Transvaal.

In view of the above, it is our contention that S.A.C.B.O.C. and all its unit down to the very last club and cricketer, should take stock of themselves and subject the entire situation to a critical review and analyse so that we may forever clear the air which is pregnant with pitfalls and uncertainty. Already S.A.C.B.O.C., its provincial units and clubs stand divided into different camps simply because of the lack of proper, democratic and critical discussion in the full knowledge of the authentic facts pertaining to the situation.

We believe therefore that it is the duty and responsibility of all units and clubs to refrain from participation in such set-ups until such time as total clarification is forthcoming in a joint statement by all parties involved in the approval and implementation of "normal cricket".

Thanking you.  
Yours in Sport,  
P. J. Bhana  
Hon. Secretary

(Letter Dated 23 December 1976)

The Secretary  
Azad Cricket Club  
P.O. Box 42060  
Fordsburg 2033  
Dear Sir,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 10th November, 1976.

We wish to inform you that at an Executive Committee Meeting of this Union held on the 9th December, 1976, specially convened to discuss your letter, it was resolved that the following points should be brought to your attention.

1. That your club made a request, as per your letter dated 26.10.76, to be withdrawn from the league competition for reasons stipulated in your letter.
2. That before this Union could notify the Transvaal Cricket Union of your decision to withdraw from the league competition, your secretary had already conveyed to that body your club's decision.
3. That with regard to your request, in your letter of the 10th November, 1976, for a Council Meeting of this Union we apologise for the delay in attending to the matter as the chairman of the Union was out of town for a couple of weeks at the time of us receiving your letter. The Executive Committee of this Union has decided that no purpose will be served in calling up a Council Meeting as this Union is not in a position to give any further clarification on the issues involved that what has already been given at two meetings of the Union where your club was present and also at the Transvaal Cricket Federation Meeting where your club's chairman was present, and also in various press statements released by the chairman of SACBOC and the Nine Men Motivating Committee.
4. That cricket in the Transvaal is being played in accordance with the decision taken at the Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Cricket Federation in September.
5. That "normal" cricket is being played in all provinces except W. Province with the blessing of the South African Cricket Board of Control.
6. That the Executive Committee of this Union takes a very serious view of the fact that your club has circulated throughout the country private correspondence entered into between this Union and your club.
7. That your club's activities in an attempt to disrupt the smooth running of cricket throughout the country, as per your letter of the 9th November, 1976, addressed to all SACBOC affiliates, is considered as an affront to the Union in that as a member of this Union you had no right in engaging in such an activity without the approval of this Union.
8. That the Executive Committee of this Union has unanimously agreed in the decision to warn your club in disrupting the playing of cricket or circulation of correspondence between this Union and your club will be viewed in a very serious light and would definitely result in stronger action being taken against your club.
9. That your club's activities in an attempt to disrupt "normal" cricket have been reported to our parent body the Transvaal Cricket Federation and copies of all correspondence pertaining to this subject have been forwarded to that body.

Yours faithfully  
WITWATERSRAND CRICKET UNION  
R. Khota, Hon. Secretary

(Letter Dated 15th January, 1977)

The Secretary  
Witwatersrand Cricket Union  
P.O. Box 42102  
Fordsburg  
2033

Dear Sir,

Your Registered Letter dated 23rd December, 1976.

We note, with dismay, that you have found it expedient to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee for the purpose of discussing our letter dated 10th November 1976 and by-passing the necessity of convening a Council Meeting when our abovementioned letter specifically requested an urgent Council Meeting.

Our dismay and, in fact, our disgust at the arbitrary actions of the officials responsible for such a state of affairs stems from the fact that we desired the opportunity of discussing the entire issue of "Normal Cricket" at full Council level in order to fully table our objections to Multinational Cricket which is being offered in the guise of "Normal Cricket". In this regard, we need substantiate our contention no further other than to refer you to paragraphs 3 and 4 of our letter (10th November 1976) pertaining to correspondence from the Department of Sports and Recreation (22nd October 1976), to the Crescent Cricket Club.

The contempt with which this important request by our Club has been handled by some officials and the Executive can only be dismissed with the disgust and abhorrence which it deserves. It is also needless to mention that the constitutional requirements have also been tossed overboard insofar as Clause 13(b), pertaining to the functions of the Executive Committee are concerned.

On the question of our Club's withdrawal, it appears obvious that facts have been misconstrued and misinterpreted. Our letter of the 26th October, 1976 states that because of circumstances outlined in that letter, circumstances which made the establishment of "Normal Cricket" suspect, our Club could no longer "continue participating in the present fixture, until such time that, absolute clarity is forthcoming in a form of a detailed statement from the Motivating Committee, accepted and ratified by each of the National Cricket Bodies". The Transvaal Cricket Union were notified in terms of rules submitted to our Club by that Union for a specific fixture against Primrose on the 31st October 1976, in order to enable our Club to fully discuss the matter at a meeting of the Witwatersrand Cricket Union.

We cannot accept that the absence of the Chairman, Mr. R. Garda, made it impossible to convene a meeting of the Union. Possibly this could have delayed the meeting a few weeks, but to suddenly decide against the holding of such a meeting and take the discussion at an Executive Meeting because it is claimed that the calling-up of a Council Meeting will serve no purpose is incomprehensible to us.

Contrary to the claim in your letter (item 4), cricket in the Transvaal is not being played in accordance with any decision taken at the Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Cricket Federation. It is also our contention that Article 4(b) and (c) of the South African Cricket Board of Control Constitution are also not being compiled with insofar as the existing implementation of Multinational Cricket is concerned. In this regard, we refer you to letter from the Department of Sports and Recreation (22nd October 1976) as well as to the Gillette Cup Competition and the statements by Jeppe Old Boys Cricket Club and the late Mr. Billy Woodin to the effect that they are participating in compliance with the Government's Multi-National Sports Policy.

Items 6, 7, 8 and 9 of your letter refer to my Club's circulation of correspondence between ourselves as well as other material relating to "Normal Cricket" to various clubs within S.A.C.B.O.C. for information purposes. It would appear that the Executive Committee interprets this action on our part as disruptive and an affront to the Witwatersrand Cricket Union and warns of possible stronger action being taken against our Club.

In this regard, may we respectfully draw your attention to the following:

- (i) The Azad Cricket Club (established 1943 has been an affiliate for the whole of its 33 (thirty-three) years of existence of the Witwatersrand Cricket Union (established 1930). It has both enjoyed and suffered the fluctuation of cricketering fortunes of its parent body for these many years. It has always willingly contributed to the administrative machinery and to other developments of its parent body and of the T.C.F. and S.A.C.B.O.C. Our Club has always zealously upheld all the time, honoured principles of cricket and sports generally, as expounded from time to time by top-level administrators in S.A.C.B.O.C. The Club has always respected the dignity of those democratic principles of administration which made S.A.C.B.O.C., T.C.F. and Wits, into the kind of formidable institution they became. Our Club, having imbibed of the wisdom of these great institution considers itself extremely for-

Continued

fortunate in having existed and developed under the wings of such colossus of cricketing institutions throughout the country. It is a sad reflection therefore to find oneself threatened with "stronger action being taken against your club" for following, practising and preaching the same dictates and principles of these very institutions whose utterances and actions in the past moulded the beliefs we practice today.

- (ii) There are no laws in the Constitution of S.A.C.B.O.C., T.C.U. or the Wits Cricket Union which my Club has, by virtue of its action, in any way transgressed and therefore, the threat of "stronger actions" is incomprehensible to us.
- (iii) We maintain that the contentions we have made are honest, sincere and meaningful and follow the dictates of principle expounded by no less an institution than S.A.C.B.O.C. and if any "stronger action" is to be taken against those who uphold those principles, it must be directed at all those who believe in what S.A.C.B.O.C. stands for.
- (iv) Our action in circulating various correspondence to inform as many of those involved in cricket within S.A.C.B.O.C. of our stand on S.A.C.B.O.C.'s principles incorporated under Article 4 of its Constitution and to seek support for our stand from fellow clubs within the ambit of S.A.C.B.O.C. cannot be construed as disrupting "Normal Cricket" because the clubs are not engaged in "Normal" but in multi-national cricket, blessed or otherwise, by S.A.C.B.O.C.
- (v) We are committed to upholding the principles of normal cricket and in this context, specifically following the dictates of S.A.C.B.O.C.'s Constitution — Article 4 (b) and (c) which read:  
 Article 4 (b) to foster a spirit of goodwill, equality and fraternity among all cricketers in particular and other sportsman generally, and to oppose and prevent any discrimination among sportsmen on the grounds of race, colour, caste, creed or religion.  
 Article 4 (c) To achieve the selection of representative teams in South Africa on merit alone and to promote, encourage and advance

the playing of cricket on a non-racial basis from club level upward and to ensure that all cricketers irrespective of race, colour, caste, creed or religion are provided with equal opportunities, playing and training facilities to exploit their talents to the fullest.

In terms of the aforementioned, it is needless to emphasize any further the dire need to convene an Urgent Council Meeting of the Union and we enclose herewith a requisition signed by the secretaries of 7 (seven) affiliated clubs who we approached with the problem we are confronting and who have agreed to our request for an Urgent Council Meeting.

We trust that we will be forwarded with an urgent reply.

Yours sincerely  
P. J. Bhana  
Hon. Secretary

**(Letter Dater 17th February, 1977)**

The Secretary  
Azad Cricket Club  
P.O. Box 42060  
Fordsburg 2033

Dear Sir,

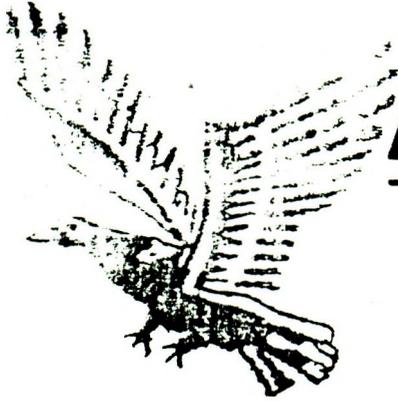
With reference to your letter dated the 15th January, 1977, we wish to inform you that your letter referred to above was tabled before the Executive Committee of this Union at a meeting of the said Committee held on the 7th February, 1977.

The Executive Committee took the following decisions and you are accordingly advised:

1. That the requisition submitted by your club, together with your letter of the 15th January, 1977, for a Council meeting of this Union is out of order.
2. That your club is suspended forthwith from this Union as your club has violated one of the Rules of this Union's Constitution.

Yours faithfully  
R. Khota  
Hon. Secretary

# Annexure 'A'



# AZAD CRICKET CLUB

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ESTABLISHED 1943

The Secretary  
Transvaal Cricket Board

November 2, 1985

Dear Sir,

RE: LENASIA STADIUM

With reference to a telephone call made by the President of the Board to our club chairman Mr. R. Gopal, whereby he was enlightened as to the conditions stipulated by the Johannesburg City Council with regard to the continued use of the Lenasia Stadium by the Board the following transpired:

The matter was raised with members of the club and the various issues and implications were discussed and considered. In view of the fact that certain members of the club were assaulted and/or detained by the Security police when a protest was staged together with Zulfikaars Cricket Club at the opening of the Stadium the players have expressed certain reservations before any acceptance of the agreement with the Johannesburg City Council can be undertaken by the Board.

The Points which require further clarification are:

- i) In regard to the payment of an amount of R3000/R3500 which is to be made to the City Council for the use of the stadium for the current season, we would like to know whether this will be on the basis of a lease agreement between the Johannesburg City Council and the Board
- ii) If the payment is to be covered by a lease agreement than what happens to the current lease agreement between the Johannesburg City Council and the Johannesburg Cricket Council which, to the best of our knowledge, is still in existence?
- iii) Also, if the payment is not covered by a lease agreement, would it not mean that the Board would effectually be subletting the stadium from the Johannesburg Cricket Council via the City Council?

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*All correspondence to be addressed to the secretary*

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Furthermore, the above club strongly feels that future negotiations conducted by the Board with regard to the Lenasia Stadium be confined between the Board officials and the Johannesburg City Council representatives and specifically exclude the involvement of any third party. Also, should an agreement be reached with the Council the Board should reserve the right to rename the stadium as one of the conditions.

Finally, in the light of the current situation in the country, is it prudent to enter into negotiations for the stadium? Is it not likely that the bargaining power of the Board would increase in the future?

Yours in Sport,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Govan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

SECRETARY



# AZAD CRICKET CLUB

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ESTABLISHED 1943

The Secretary  
Transvaal Cricket Board  
7th December 1985

Dear Sir,

RE: Lenasia Cricket Stadium

After a special meeting of Azad Cricket Club called up on 6th December 1985, I have been instructed to write the following letter regarding the Lenasia Cricket Stadium issue:

There is no cricketer belonging to the Transvaal Cricket Board, who wishes to be denied the use of the stadium. However, the manner in which we obtain its use is of significance.

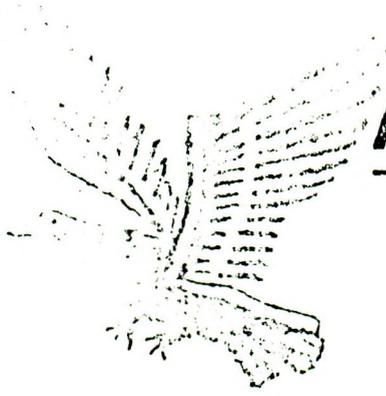
A gentlemen's "agreement", which meant that the use of the "glass house" was out of the question, was reached at the 3rd Council Meeting of the Transvaal Cricket Board held on 4th November, 1985.

The vote at the 4th Council Meeting was taken without giving the rank and file of the players an opportunity to discuss the issue. Therefore the question arises: 'Would we similarly take a vote on inviting the "Australian Rebels" to a dinner organised by the Transvaal Cricket Board?'

The dictatorial manner in which the Chairman conducted the meeting, without allowing debate, is contrary to democratic procedure. On top of it, he ranted and raved for 10 to 15 minutes trying to "legalise" the use of the "glass house" by making illogical comparisons. If that was not "canvassing" then we are afraid he cannot be the "servant" of the Board.

In view of the above:

1. We are not fulfilling fixtures on the 8th December, 1985 as a symbolic protest, and to show solidarity with those of our players who were assaulted and detained by the Security Police on the day the "stadium" was inaugurated.



# AZAD CRICKET CLUB

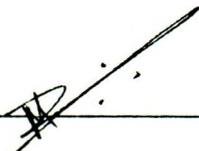
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ESTABLISHED 1943

2. Also that not "collaborating" with the "enemy" is a basis of the struggle for non-racial cricket espoused by the Board, which is *NOT* up for "sale" (vote) like a piece of bread, a non-collaborative strategy be enforced to obtain the use of the stadium.
3. The Johannesburg Cricket Council is unacceptable in terms of the T.C.B. constitution (Clause 39) regarding Double Standards. The vote taken was in violation of the above clause and is therefore unconstitutional. We strongly recommend that we stop using the stadium until such time as a lease is offered by the City Council to the T.C.B.
4. A committee needs to be set up, whose responsibility will be to obtain the stadium legally.

Thanking You

Yours in Sports

  
M Desai (Asst. Secr)

**Collection Number: AG3403**

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