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1/18/24/2

6th January, 1961.

Dennis Brutus, Esq.,
S.A. Sports Association,
P.O. Box 2129,
PORT ELIZABETH.

Dear Dennis Brutus,

Thank you so much for your very kind invitation to your Biennial General Meeting. Unfortunately I shall be away in Cape Town at the time, but other members of our staff will be most interested and glad to have the opportunity of attending.

Thank you also for asking me to send a message. This is enclosed. In case this letter does not reach you in time my assistant, Lawrence Reyburn, who will attend, will bring a copy with him.

Very best wishes for great success in 1961.

Yours very sincerely,



Muriel Horrell (Miss).
RESEARCH OFFICER.

I very much regret my inability to attend your meeting, owing to the fact that I shall be away in Cape Town for the annual meetings of the S.A. Institute of Race Relations. However, other members of the Institute's staff have been very grateful to accept your kind invitation to be present.

I send my very best wishes for the success of the proceedings and of your Association's efforts to obtain international recognition for all South African sportsmen. It is well-known that numbers of our Non-White sportsmen are talented and accomplished performers, well qualified to represent their country with distinction in international competitions. I earnestly hope that it will soon become possible for them to do so, and that all South Africans will unite in sharing a sense of great pride in their achievements.

Muriel Horrell.

1/8/24/2

SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

Extracts from the

ADDRESS TO

First Biennial General Meeting.

14th-15th. January, 1961.

We have tried to work for the recognition of all South African sportsmen. This is work which might well have been done by the S.A. Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association but unfortunately this body cares only for White South Africans. Thus the S.A. Sports Association was formed two years ago and has since made a disturbing impact throughout the sporting world and especially in our country.

The exponents of apartheid in sport argue that their traditions, customs and constitutions bar the mixing of White and Non-White sportsmen. It is also against the wishes of the government of this country as is clearly seen in the statement recently issued by a Government Minister ~~writing~~ to the all-white South African Association in June, 1960, ~~the Minister of the Interior advised:-~~

had "The Government ^{did} does not favour inter-racial team competitions within the borders of the Union and ^{would} will discourage such competitions taking place as being contrary to the traditional policy of the Union - as accepted by all races in the Union."

The policy of separate development is in accordance with the traditional South African custom that Whites and non-Whites should organise their sporting activities separately. The inclusion of different races in the same team would therefore be contrary to established custom."

The absurdity of this is shown when we recall that in the past month alone there have been important sporting events on an inter-racial basis in Port Elizabeth, East London and Johannesburg. Further, in violation of their own apartheid codes apartheid teams bar none in competition outside South Africa; they take advantage of the hospitality and sporting spirit of other countries, but South Africa cannot be a true host to many multi-racial countries for the apartheid code will not allow White and non-White to mix. White South Africans win acclaim for their sportsmanship in the international arena and are photographed mixing with Non-Whites. This deceptive propaganda may fool some and help keep South Africa a member of international bodies, but it is doing true sportsmen great harm and makes us ridiculous in the eyes of those who are aware of the repressive racialism which dominates all our lives."

Mr J. Gumbek South African Sports Association
P.O. Box 2129, Port Elizabeth, S.A.
15th December, 1961.

At its meeting on 7th December, 1961 the Executive of the South African Sports Association resolved to release the following correspondence with comments:

1. To the South African Cricket Board of Control, Johannesburg on 28th October, 1961 from SASA:

"Dear Mr Varachia,

I have been directed by my Executive, which met this week to commend your association on the following decisions by your Board at its recent Conference and which were reported to our Executive:

1. The decision to apply for recognition by the Imperial Cricket Conference.
2. The decision to oppose the New Zealand Cricket Tour which commences shortly.
3. The decision to apply for membership of our Association.

It is the opinion of our Executive that these are most progressive steps and we extend our hearty congratulations to your Board.

It was also felt that it might be felt by members of your Board that you have been singled out by our body for adverse comment in the past, and that other bodies have not been exposed to this criticism.

I hasten to assure you that this was never the intention of our association: we have always been willing to pay tribute for all progressive steps taken in the interests of sport. At the same time we have criticised any steps which might do harm to sport - whether it be boxing, athletics, soccer, table tennis, rugby, or any other sport. And it has never been done in a spirit of prejudice. If we have erred in any way, we shall be glad to express our regrets once it has been pointed out to us.

I need not remind you that we have always, since SASA was formed, expressed the desire that your powerful body should join us and lend its powerful support in our fight for a fair deal for all South African sportsmen and we would be happy to welcome you to membership.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours, D.A. Brutus/Hon. Secretary/S.A.S.A."

2. To the South African Sports Association on 6th November, 1961.

"Dear Sir,

I have for reply your letter of the 28th ultimo and at the outset wish to draw your attention to the fact that, contrary to your information, no decision has been taken to oppose the New Zealand tour of South Africa or to seek affiliation and membership of your Association.

I thank you for the sentiments expressed and wish to assure you that the fulfilment of the objects of the Board of Control have always been uppermost in our minds and we pledge ourselves to work to that end, and that the Officials shall not be found wanting in doing the necessary.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A.M. Jassat, Honorary Secretary.

The Executive feels that it is in the interests of sportsmen that these letters be made public. It is hoped that they will be given thoughtful consideration. We regret to note that the information supplied to SASA and reported in the Press on the stand of the Cricket Board is apparently incorrect.

We have also noted with interest a Press report that Pakistan has proposed the formation of a Junior League in international cricket. We hope to receive official information on this matter from the Cricket Board of Control. We are fearful that this plan may lead to the consolidation of racialism in South African cricket and that non-white cricketers will be confined to the Junior League. We shall keep a vigilant eye on this matter and urge all sportsmen to do likewise.

D.A. Brutus
For the Executive, S.A.S.A.

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