

PC 11/11/3/20



APARTHEID AND SPORT



PACSA FACTSHEET

20

NO APARTHEID IN SPORT?

No go for

Mackerdhuj

NY 22.5.85
THE South African Cricket Board of Control said yesterday the Government had refused a passport to its president Mr Krish Mackerdhuj for a visit to Australia.

Secretary Mr Ahmed Mangera said Mr Mackerdhuj had been invited by the Australian Government to address sporting bodies.

Mr Mangera said the SACB planned to call for a boycott of the rebel Australian tour. — Sapa.

"We have convinced our own politicians to get out and stay out of our sports affairs."

Rudolph Opperman - President, S.A. Olympic and National Games Association.

"People throughout the world must realize that we have won; that all other sports followed us and now there is no apartheid in sport in South Africa."

Dr D Craven - President, S.A. Rugby Board.

SPORTS BOYCOTT

The boycott movement dates from the early 1950s when South African democrats campaigned against unequal facilities and the assumption that top level sport was the exclusive preserve of Whites. In the 1960s and early 1970s the South African government refused to accept an England cricket team containing Basil d'Oliviera, a black player, and put pressure on the New Zealanders not to include Maoris in their rugby teams. Non-racial sports bodies successfully persuaded the International Olympic Committee and the controlling bodies of all major sports (except rugby) to expel South Africa. Sports isolation has hurt the South African government and its supporters deeply. As a result a number of amendments to discriminatory laws has made possible mixed sport from club to international level. Administrators of official sports bodies like Dr Craven (rugby) and Mr Dakin (cricket) and Mr Eddie Barlow of the S.A. Sports Office in London, believe that apartheid in sport has been abolished and South Africa should be re-admitted to the international community.

There are various reasons why millions of South Africans reject these views. Many groups, including the churches, community organisations and individuals have expressed their support for the sports boycott.

NZ commentator quits over tour

STAR 13/6/85

NO! SAYS NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

Methodists oppose sports tours
Daily News Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG

Divided Kiwis oppose tour

WELLINGTON — Most New Zealanders say they oppose plan

NO NORMAL SPORT IN AN ABNORMAL SOCIETY— SACOS.

ANY TOUR BY A NEW ZEALAND RUGBY TEAM WILL BE REGARDED AS COMPLICITY IN THE CRIME OF APARTHEID— UDF.

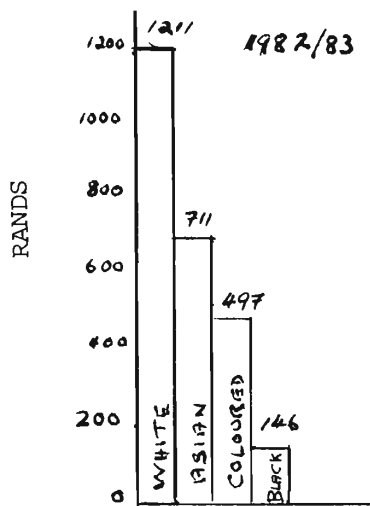
**Please
don't
tour SA
— SACC**

PACSA

PIETERMARITZBURG AGENCY FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL AWARENESS
P.O. BOX 2338, PIETERMARITZBURG 3200 / 165 PIETERMARITZ STREET
TELEPHONE: 20052

1. THE USE OF SPORTS REFORM AS PROPAGANDA. The government tinkers with inconsequential laws and claims that apartheid is dying, sport is now fully integrated and South Africa is a society of equal opportunity. Over 100 sports bodies say they are committed to full integration in sport. Some of them arrange rebel tours of South Africa at vast expense: the Australian cricket rebels are reported to have been offered R285 000 each. It is evident that South Africa is trying to buy its way back into international sport: often the sports teams bought in this way are substandard but expensive (the Sri Lankan cricket tour cost R1 million). West Indian's Collis King and Hartley Alleyne earned vast amounts for mediocre performances in Currie Cup cricket. Fact finding missions (e.g. Jeeps, 1981) are carefully handled by government apologists and carry home the inevitable favourable report. However, independent commentators like Michael Brearley (ex England captain of cricket) argue that "...changes are mere window dressing...(and)...South Africa certainly does not see (these tours) as purely business..." (Observer 7 March 1982). Many South Africans (mainly white) are immensely grateful to sportspeople who come here: the All Blacks will be lavishly entertained in every possible way, and some South Africans will congratulate themselves that all is well with the world as long as they can indulge their patriotism and cheer on a Springbok team. Meanwhile the Bantustan policy, described by Black Sash as tantamount to genocide, carries on. People continue to die under mysterious conditions; poverty, hunger, malnutrition and death continue unabated (see earlier fact-sheets).
2. THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID. Sport cannot be detached from apartheid South Africa and "normalised". Normal sport cannot take place in an abnormal society. We are all forced into different compartments by the Population Registration, Group Areas and other Acts as well as the racist provisions of the 1984 Constitution. Apartheid is with us 24 hours a day. It is dishonest to claim that a few hours of mixing on a sports field on a Saturday afternoon represents progress.
3. THE CONTINUING REPRESSION OF APARTHEID. While cosmetic reforms take place in sport Black South Africans are deprived of their citizenship, ignored in the 'new' Constitution, forcibly relocated, treated as dispensable labour units in the migrant labour system and denied human dignity by institutionalized racism and socio-economic exploitation. Individuals in opposition to apartheid are detained without trial, harassed, denied passports and charged with treason because they seek freedom for the people. At least 52 people currently face charges of treason.
4. DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SPORT.

EXPENDITURE PER PUPIL



Under the 1984 Constitution public sector education is an 'own' affair and eventually there will be 15 or more separate education systems. The existing systems are funded in a discriminatory way (see graph). Consequently school sports facilities for Whites are excellent while for Blacks they are limited or non-existent.

In 1982 the expenditure on sports facilities for White pupils was R9,84 per pupil while 41 cents was spent on each Black pupil, a ratio of 24:1. A comparison of schools in Pietermaritzburg shows the following: one White school has superb facilities for 17 sports, including 6 cricket and 6 rugby fields, all well maintained. An Indian school catering for 6 sports has one multi-purpose sports field, described by the sports administrator as a 'cabbage patch' which cannot be permanently marked out, and is invaded by neighbouring residents who have no other recreational facilities. An equivalent Black school has one substantial soccer pitch and uses a dilapidated soccer stadium in Edendale for athletics.

One White school in Pietermaritzburg has a greater range and more facilities than is available to all the Black scholars in the Metropolitan area of Pietermaritzburg.

5. DISCRIMINATION AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL. An investigation reported by the Maritzburg Mail (Nov/Dec.84) revealed that the Maritzburg Country Club, the Maritzburg Golf Club and Collegians Club were in receipt of loans as high as R445 000 from the City Council, which charged interest rates varying from nil to 15.5%. Other White sports clubs have received smaller grants at similarly favourable rates. These clubs appear to be structured in such a way that membership for Black South Africans is virtually impossible. Social and economic sanctions keep them White even if discriminatory legislation has been removed. In 1983 a prominent golfer, Mr L Govender, was refused membership of the Maritzburg Golf Club. The City Council's revenue comes from rates collected and money borrowed at 18%. The ratepayers of Pietermaritzburg, many of whom would be denied membership of the above-mentioned clubs, are subsidising White facilities.

"Non-racialism is a code of conduct, a way of life which determines the attitude of every person who believes in this principle---In order to attain the ideal of non-racialism in sport it means that one must, when faced with a situation which leads to, implies or involves racism or discrimination, choose whether to accept or reject it...South Africa is riddled with racism in all walks of life. We have no choice as to where we stay or which school we attend. But we are all ultimately part of the struggle to do away with those restrictions. We can nonetheless choose not to go to Ellis Park...(Twenty two questions and answers on the South African Council on Sport, 1984).