

American Committee on Africa  
164 Madison Avenue, 2nd Floor  
New York, New York 10016  
February 8, 1968

STATEMENT BY JACKIE ROBINSON AND K.C. JONES ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN ATHLETES PROTESTING  
SOUTH AFRICA'S READMISSION TO THE 1968 OLYMPIC GAMES.

The International Olympic Committee is now taking a mail vote of its entire membership on the question of the readmission of South Africa to the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games.

Following its suspension in 1964 for violation of the Olympic Charter by policies of racial discrimination, South Africa adopted a "new sports policy" in an attempt to secure reinstatement. The report of the three-man Olympic Commission sent to South Africa to investigate the situation was presented to the International Olympic Committee in Grenoble on February 1, but has not been made public. Instead this meeting decided on a mail ballot.

The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa has announced that if South Africa is re-admitted, the African nations will withdraw from the International Olympic Committee. American athletes, too, are joining the international protest against possible lifting of the ban on South Africa and are particularly concerned about the United States vote in the current balloting.

The announced "new policy" in South African sports is a fraud. South Africa is still in violation of the Olympic Charter. The South African proposal is to send a multi-racial team to the Olympics. But this contingent will be selected after four sets of racially segregated trials for Africans, Asians, Coloreds, and Whites. The South African Prime Minister has said, concerning segregation in South Africa, there can be "no compromise, negotiations, or abandonment of principles." This means the practice of segregated sports and spectators will continue. It means that nonwhite athletes must still train with inferior facilities and will not compete in the best stadiums.

If the International Olympic Committee accepts South African tokenism, it will appear that international sportsmen condone South Africa's apartheid policy. To the nonwhite majority in South Africa it will be just another indication that the world is willing to compromise with the indignity of white supremacy.

As a member of the National Committee of the American Committee on Africa, I have written to American athletes whom I know to be concerned with the integrity of the Olympics and of American athletics, asking them to join in the following statement:

"I join the protest of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa against South Africa's participation in the 1968 Olympic Games. Racial discrimination is a violation of the Olympic rules, and South Africa continues to ignore this principle even in her projected "new sports policy." This policy reflects the apartheid system which governs all of South African life because, according to the plan, South Africa's Olympic Team would only be selected after separate racial competitions were held for each different racial group. In addition, sports and spectators would continue to be segregated within South Africa. Therefore, South Africa should not be readmitted to the 1968 Olympics."

The preliminary list who are joining in this protest includes: (see following page)

Statement Protesting South Africa's Possible Readmission to Olympics

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Reuben Amaro	New York Yankees
Arthur Ashe, Jr.	U.S. Davis Cup Team
Dave Bing	Detroit Pistons
Bob Boozer	Chicago Bulls
Jim Bouton	New York Yankees
John Carlos	San Jose State College Track Team
Curt Clayton	Grambling College Track Team
Donn Clendenon	Pittsburgh Pirates
Harry Edwards	former San Jose State College Track Team
Lee Evans	San Jose State College Track Team
Bill Gains	San Jose State College Track Team
Bob Gibson	St. Louis Cardinals
Hal Greer	Philadelphia 76 <sup>ers</sup>
Erv Hall	Villanova University Track Team
Larry James	Villanova University Track Team
K.C. Jones	Coach, Brandeis University, former Boston Celtics
Samuel Jones	Boston Celtics
Martin McGrady	San Jose State College Track Team
Elijah Miller	Rutgers University Track Team
David Patrick	Villanova University Track Team
Jackie Robinson	former Brooklyn Dodgers
Tommie Smith	San Jose State College Track Team
Chet Walker	Philadelphia 76 <sup>ers</sup>