

FROM: THE COMMITTEE TO STOP THE UNITED STATES-SOUTH AFRICA  
TENNIS MATCH

PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 4, 1977

DENNIS BRUTUS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICA NON-RACIAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (SANROC), ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE HAS REQUESTED THAT MR. SLEW HESTER, HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION, CALL AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE DAVIS CUP COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CANCELLING THE UNITED STATES-SOUTH AFRICA DAVIS CUP TENNIS MATCH SCHEDULED FOR NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 15-17. SPEAKING FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS IN EVANSTON, ILLINOIS, BRUTUS STATED THAT BY ALLOWING THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM TO PLAY IN THE UNITED STATES, THE TENNIS ASSOCIATION IS CONDONING THE RACIST POLICIES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND HURTING AMERICA'S IMAGE AMONG WORLD SPORTSMEN. CALLING THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM "AMBASSADORS OF APARTHEID", BRUTUS SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT ONLY STAY OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA, BUT ALSO THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WAS INVOLVING POLITICS IN SPORTS, BRUTUS RESPONDED: "I AM NOT THE ONE WHO BROUGHT POLITICS INTO SPORTS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DID THIS WHEN THEY IMPOSED THEIR RACIST IDEOLOGY ONTO SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTSMEN. NOW THEY ARE TRYING TO EXPORT THEIR BRAND OF RACISM TO THE UNITED STATES. ONLY WHEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ALLOWS SPORTSMEN TO PLAY EACH OTHER WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE WILL SPORTS BE CLEANSED OF THE POISON OF APARTHEID."

BRUTUS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE DEMONSTRATION AT THE DAVIS CUP MATCH WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED BY THE LOS ANGELES-BASED COMMITTEE TO STOP THE UNITED STATES-SOUTH AFRICA TENNIS MATCH FOR APRIL 16 AT 12 (NOON) AT THE NEWPORT BEACH TENNIS CLUB.