



MASSACHUSETTS CITIZENS AGAINST APARTHEID

3 Clinton St., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

October 6, 1979

For Immediate Release:

DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 20TH TO OPPOSE WBZ TV'S BROADCAST OF THE TATE-COETZEE BOXING MATCH FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

Anti-Apartheid and community groups are planning a demonstration at the facilities of WBZ TV, to take place on October 20th. It is planned in response to WBZ's decision to carry the NBC broadcast of a boxing match from South Africa, between Black American John Tate and White South African Gerrie Coetzee.

Mr. Yates, assistant general manager of WBZ TV, has confirmed that WBZ will be broadcasting a controversial boxing match between Tate and Coetzee, which is being opposed by anti-Apartheid groups and community organizations in Boston and across the country. A coalition of anti-Apartheid groups is planning a demonstration as part of a national STOP THE FIGHT campaign.

Representatives of the Boston Coalition Against Apartheid, the South African Solidarity Committee at Harvard, the African National Congress, and Massachusetts Citizens Against Apartheid met on September 6 with Sy Yanoff, general manager of WBZ TV, to voice their opposition to the fight. During the meeting, the group expressed the concern that the South African Government is using the event to try to convey a favorable impression about the system of Apartheid. The group also showed evidence that the South African Government is involved in promoting the fight in an attempt to break the sports boycott of South Africa.

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In response to NBC's decision to carry the fight, the Supreme Council of Sports in Africa (which governs sports on the continent) has already announced that:

- 1) African athletes at the Olympics would not give interviews to NBC.
- 2) NBC would not be granted rights to televise sports from free African countries.

In addition, the African ambassadors at the United Nations were considering boycotting the Moscow Olympics. Sam Ramsamy, the overseas representative of the South African Council, has stated that "Sports contacts with South Africa violate the principles of the United Nations and many international sport bodies, including the International Olympic Committee. To allow the most visible of all sports titles to be fought for in South Africa is an outrage to all people who champion the cause of equality and freedom."

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