

SACBC STATEMENT ON RUGBY TOURS (1/5/81)

Responding to the many request that have been made to us both locally and from abroad, we wish to make public our view on the proposed rugby tours involving South Africa. While we cannot but be unhappy about restrictions on sporting contacts which play such an important role in international relations, we realise that the few changes for the better in South African sport which have been made in recent years result from sport boycotts.

A situation of great inequality exist between black and white citizens in South Africa. This is evident in sport as in other aspects of South African life. We wish to encourage all attempts to bring about real change in South Africa by non-violent means. Sport boycotts are an effective means of applying pressure for change.

We regret to cause distress to South African sportsmen but see a boycott as a short-term disappointment which could encourage sportsmen together with others to work for a changed society in which boycotts will be a ghost of the past, and South African sport will be enriched through links with sportsmen in all parts of the world.