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### Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART) letter

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# SART / CHICAGO

## Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour

407 S. Dearborn . Suite 355 . Chicago, IL., 60605 . (312) 427-4064/5

September 2, 1981

Dear Friends:

On September 19, 1981, the Springboks, a South African National Rugby Team, will play a match at an "undisclosed" location in the Chicago area. The team was invited by the American Rugby Football Union to tour the United States. The Springboks are scheduled to play in Chicago, Albany and New York City on September 19th, 22nd, and 26th respectively.

Because South Africa maintains one of the most brutal systems in the world, thousands of people throughout this country are both outraged and appalled that the Reagan administration has granted visas to the team members. Therefore, several individuals and organizations in Chicago, New York and Albany came together to form coalitions to STOP THE APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR (SART). We oppose this tour for several reasons (see SART statement) and are calling on you and/or your organization to join us.

South Africa, with its policy of apartheid, is the most racist country in the world. Racism is enshrined in the South African constitution which leaves Blacks voteless, virtually landless, and denies them the legal right to move freely in their own country. In addition, the apartheid system maintains a separate and inferior education system for Blacks and reaps tremendous profits from the labor of Black workers by paying them wages far below that of whites. South Africa also has extended its repressive system to Namibia, a country to its northwestern border which it illegally occupies in spite of demands by the international community to withdraw. Also, the white regime has just recently invaded Angola, killing masses of people.

For these reasons, the world community recognizes apartheid and the white regime as crimes against humanity and has called for its total isolation. South Africa has been expelled from almost every major sports body and both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity resolutions call for a boycott against South Africa in international sports. The United States, however, has consistently violated the resolutions and maintains economic, cultural and sports ties with the regime.

SART is determined to put a stop to this tour. At present, the New York coalition has gathered sufficient support to force Mayor Koch to deny the use of any public facilities in the city. We have sent telegrams to President Reagan, letters to Mayor Byrne and Governor Thompson asking them to not "play ball with apartheid". In addition we are planning a demonstration on September 12, 1981, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Federal Plaza Building with Alderman Danny Davis, Congressman Gus Savage, and others as speakers. We will have a protest at the site of the match if the location is disclosed. PLEASE JOIN US IN EFFORTS TO "NOT PLAY BALL WITH APARTHEID!"

Sincerely,

SART/CHICAGO

*Lia Brock*  
co-convenor