

South Africa's

APARTHEID RUGBY

The Facts

ISSUED JOINTLY BY:

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THE GOVERNMENT'S SPORTS POLICY AND GUIDELINES:

The following policy was announced on 23 September 1976 and reconfirmed on 21 May 1979:

"The Federal Information Council of the National Party accepts that, taking into account the applicable legislation and regulations, the interests of South Africa and all its peoples in respect of sport can best be served in terms of the following policy:

- 1. White, Coloured, Indian, and Black sportsmen and women should all belong to their own clubs. Each should control, arrange, and manage its own sporting fixtures.*
- 2. Wherever possible, practical, and desirable the committees or councils of the different race groups should consult together or have such contact as would advance the interests of the sport concerned.*
- 3. Inter-group competition in respect of individual types of sport will be allowed at all levels, should the controlling bodies so decide.*
- 4. In respect of team sports, the councils or committees of each racial group should arrange their own leagues or programmes within the racial group.*
- 5. Where mutually agreed councils or committees may, in consultation with the Minister, arrange leagues or matches enabling teams from different racial groups to compete.*
- 6. Each racial group should arrange its own sporting relationships with other countries or sporting bodies in accordance with its own wishes, and each should award its own badges and colours.*
- 7. If and when invited or agreed, teams comprising players from all racial groups can represent South Africa, and can be awarded colours which, if so desired, can incorporate the national flag or its colours.*
- 8. Attendance at sporting fixtures be arranged by the controlling bodies."*

THE CAUSES THAT PROVOKED ANTI-APARTHEID DEMONSTRATIONS
DURING THE 1969 SPRINGBOK TOUR OF BRITAIN - DO THEY
EXIST OR HAVE THEY BEEN REMOVED:

South African rugby is still as racist as it was in 1969. The all-white South African Rugby Board (SARB) is still in control of rugby in that country. The two national stooge bodies - South African Rugby Association (Africans) and South African Rugby Federation (Coloureds) created by the white SARB are still in existence.

However, over the last few years Danie Craven and his South African Rugby Board, in close collaboration with the white government, have tried to apply a veneer of respectability over their all-white rugby. This veneer was necessary to appease world opinion and to provide supporting evidence for the overseas friends of white South Africa.

PRESENT POSITION IN SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY:

In 1977 the two national black stooge bodies were allowed to affiliate to the white South African Rugby Board as two separate provincial units. This brought SARB's total membership to 24 unions - the 22 white provincial unions and the two national black stooge bodies. This was hailed in South Africa as the biggest break-through in non-racial rugby.

The absurd situation whereby two national organisations (Black) get affiliated to another national organisation (White) which has a 22 - 2 votes majority is only possible in the land of apartheid and racial discrimination. This whole move was intended to further fortify apartheid rugby, while the affiliation of the two black stooge bodies would give white rugby international credibility. Any move by the blacks to improve the situation will be effectively crushed 22 to 2 votes.

These two national black organisations are not allowed to enter teams in the inter-provincial Currie Cup competition because their players are "not good enough" for this premier league but these very same players "become" very good when a team is selected to tour overseas or when South Africa entertains an international side. It is true that the playing standard of these blacks is relatively low. This is only so because the majority of blacks and all the superior players play in the leagues of the non-racial South African Rugby Union (SARU) which refuses to have any truck with the racist South African Rugby Board.

PERMITS:

Although there is no law in South Africa which specifically prohibits the playing of mixed sport the following laws make mixed sport illegal:

- Group Areas Act (1966)
- Reservations of Separate Amenities Act (1953)
- Bantu Laws Amendment Act (1963)
- Native Laws Amendment Act (1957)

However, to control the mixing of races, and at the same time to ensure that there is enough mixing to hoodwink international public opinion -and no more- all mixed sports fixtures are controlled by the Permit System. An application for a mixed race sports event is made to the White Department of Sport and Recreation which monitors all mixed sports events. The application is thoroughly scrutinised so as to ensure that all aspects of the government's sports policy are strictly adhered to. This scrutiny also ensures that applicants who are not members of government endorsed clubs and associations do not receive permits to stage fixtures.

Applications which do not conform to policy requirements are rejected. When questioned in parliament the Minister of Sport and Recreation replies:

"The application did not comply with requirements"
(Hansard - 5 March 1979)

Sometimes the Department of Sport and Recreation gives a blanket permit for a whole season to certain selected cricket and football organisations over which it has complete control although the organisation might have the apparent facade of being run by Blacks. However, these organisations will still have to make further applications in respect of each fixture, if they wish to admit persons of more than one race group as spectators.

Any sports event which is not "multinational" is refused a permit (i.e. more than 99 per cent of the sports fixtures).

If a Black sports body wishes to defy the government's policy and hold a "mixed" event its officials are politely warned about the consequences - usually loss of sports field, loss of employment, etc. If this does not work the police disrupt the event and transport the offenders to a police station for questioning. Usually no charge is brought against the sports officials but this form of constant intimidation compels the "offenders" to follow government policy.

SOME RECENT INCIDENTS FROM SOUTH AFRICAN SPORT

BLACK ATHLETES FORCED TO TRAVEL SEPARATELY

- *Star* (Johannesburg), 25 August 1979

BLACK ROAD RACERS BARRED

- *Rand Daily Mail* (Johannesburg), 1 June 1979

SIGNS ARE DOWN BUT APARTHEID RULES AT NEWLANDS

The apartheid signs are down at the Newlands rugby stadium - but segregation is still being enforced.

- *Sunday Times* (Johannesburg), 20 May 1979

POLICE HARASSED ME, SAYS CHEEKY THE RUGBY REBEL

Rebel Port Elizabeth rugby player Mr. Dan "Cheeky" Watson today accused the South African Police of deliberate harassment because of his membership of a non-racial club.

- *Daily News* (Durban), 14 September 1979

BAR ON WHITE SOCCER FANS IN SOWETO

- *Rand Daily Mail* (Johannesburg), 2 March 1978

POLICE ENFORCE WHITES ONLY BEACH RULING

Police yesterday continued to stop coloured and African families from going onto popular Peninsula beaches along the Indian Ocean as thousands of holiday-makers streamed to the coast.

- *Cape Times* (Cape Town), 3 January 1978

HOUNDED OUT OF HIS JOB

Delegates at the South African Cricket Board's annual meeting unanimously condemned the alleged harassment by Security Police of Mr. Yusuf Lorgat, a prominent Eastern Province sports administrator.

Voice (Johannesburg), 10 June 1978

HOW "NON-RACIAL" ARE SOUTH AFRICA'S RUGBY PLAYERS AND ADMINISTRATORS:

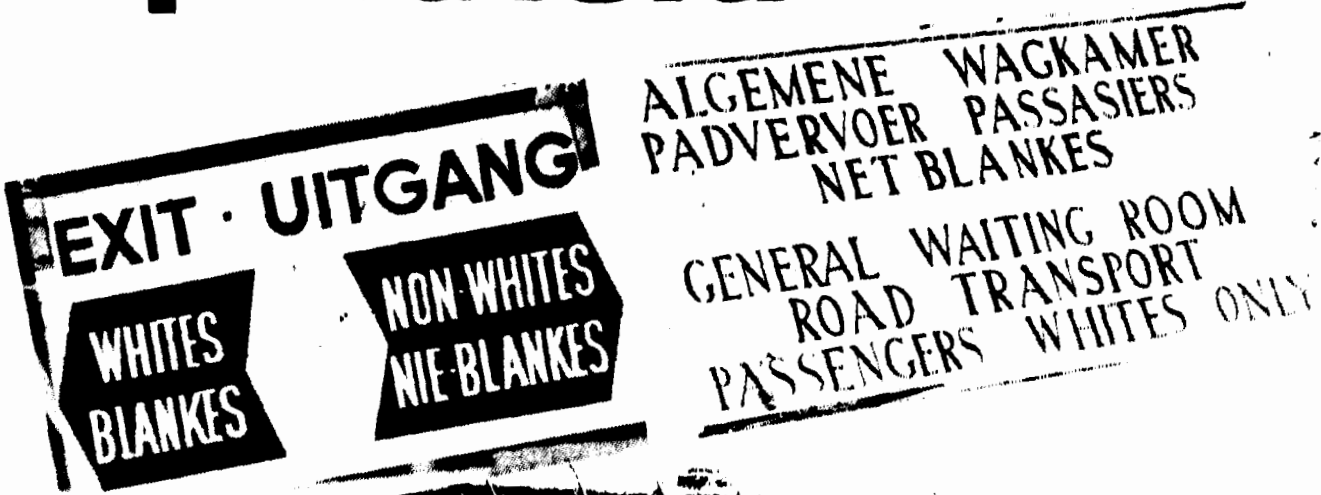
Of all South Africa's sportsmen rugby players are reputed to be the most racist. Dawie de Villiers, the captain of the 1969 Springboks to Britain was, until recently, an MP of the ruling National Party which has a notorious reputation for race segregation and discrimination. He is now the South African Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Danie Craven, President of the white South African Rugby Board made the following comment on the Group Areas Act which militates against mixed sports:

"There are so many agitators wanting to blow South Africa to bits. You must control agitators. Therefore the Group Areas Act is necessary."

- *Sunday Times* (Johannesburg), 25 March 1979

we say no to apartheid



will you say no to apartheid?

DO NOT PLAY WITH APARTHEID
CAMPAIGN FOR TOTAL ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICAN SPORT
