

SPORT

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON MIXED SPORT

In the Assembly on 25 May¹ the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Dr. P. G. J. Koornhof, outlined the Government's policy on mixed sport which, he said, was not a new policy, but a developing one. He repeated that no mixed sport would be allowed at the club, provincial, or national levels. There would, however, be no ceiling on opportunities for international competition. The policy was described in some detail on pages 314 *et seq* of the 1971 Survey.²

One exception from the general rule was allowed in 1973. As mentioned later, teams selected from each of the four main racial groups in South Africa were allowed to compete against one another in soccer during the S.A. Games, although no teams from other countries were participating.

The Government has taken stringent action to prevent multi-racial sport from being conducted at the club level. The Press reported in May³ that friendly soccer matches had been taking place on municipal grounds in Newcastle between White teams and teams consisting of Indian and Coloured members. The latter did not make use of the club-house facilities. On reading this report the M.P. for the area, Dr. P. J. Viljoen (N.P.) consulted the Minister of Sport and Recreation, who ruled that these mixed games must be stopped.

The formation of the multi-racial Aurora Cricket Club in Pietermaritzburg, and its successful application to play in second-league matches of White clubs in that city, is described on page 112. Other cricketers in Natal opposed this plan because they felt that it might lead to confrontation with the Government. They formed a Cricket Club of S.A., with a non-racial constitution. It would be administered largely by correspondence, and games between whites and blacks would be "friendlies", played on private grounds at all levels of cricketing ability. In a speech made shortly afterwards, however, Dr. Koornhof reiterated that the Government would not allow mixed sport at club, provincial, or national levels. One of the organizers of this Cricket Club, the Natal cricket captain Mr. Andre Bruyns, had discussions with the Secretary for Sport, following which he announced that the

¹ Hansard 5 cols. 7559-71.

² Also see page 106 of *South Africa: Basic Facts and Figures* published by the Institute of Race Relations in 1973.

³ *Sunday Times*, 27 May; *Rand Daily Mail*, 29 May.

Club's programme would be altered. This programme is described later.⁴

For some 20 years a popular multi-racial soccer league existed at Tongaat in Natal. Teams of African players, or of Coloured and Indians, or of all three groups, had come there at weekends from surrounding small towns to play matches at the Watson Park Stadium, which had been donated to all the people of Tongaat by the Saunders family. Later, when group areas were proclaimed, the stadium was included in the Indian area. During June, the police warned players that they were liable to prosecution under the Group Areas Act. They demanded lists of the players and the addresses of club officials.

About a fortnight later, the Town Clerk of the (multi-racial) Town Board wrote to the chairman of the soccer league, stating that although the Board had been pleased to encourage sport at the stadium between any members of the community, it had been advised by a higher authority that inter-racial sport was not permissible unless a permit had been granted under the Group Areas Act. "The Board regrets to confirm that, with immediate effect, it is no longer able to make the Watson Park Stadium available to the community for the purposes of multi-racial sport unless a permit authorizing the fixture is issued".⁵

It was reported in August⁶ that the Secretary for Bantu Administration and Development had caused local authorities to be informed that the Government was opposed, not only to sport between black and white, but also to sport between different black groups. The latter was to be permitted only "in exceptional circumstances and on high levels", and if permits were issued under the Group Areas Act.

The terms of Proclamation R228 of 5 October are set out on page 112. This measure was designed to place strict control over inter-racial social, sporting, and other events. As mentioned earlier, the exact implications are not clear at the time of writing.

BANTU SPORT AND RECREATION FUND

The Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr. T. N. H. Janson, has established a Bantu Sport and Recreation Fund to provide facilities for Africans throughout the country, but particularly for migrant workers living temporarily in urban areas, away from their families. It will be financed by donations from the public, but all the administrative work will be carried out, without charge to the fund, by a special section created within the Department of Bantu Administration and Development. It was announced in September that donations totalling R275 000 had already been received, from the Anglo American Corporation of

⁴ *Sunday Times*, 17 June and 22 July; *Rand Daily Mail*, 29 June.

⁵ *Rand Daily Mail*, 19, 20, 25, and 29 June.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 1 August.

S.A. Ltd., De Beers Corporation Ltd., Rembrandt Corporation Ltd., and the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Coy. Ltd.

The fund was officially launched at a meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Jan Smuts Airport, in October, to which White businessmen, African business and cultural leaders, and Press representatives were invited. According to reports, at this meeting the Old Mutual and the Argus Company, among others, promised large donations. By the end of the meeting R370 860 had been collected in cash or in pledges.⁷

S.A. COUNCIL ON SPORT

The "non-racial" sporting associations and their policy were described on page 417 of last year's *Survey*. Briefly, they have non-racial constitutions but in practice almost exclusively black membership — Indian, Coloured, and to a smaller extent African. They refuse to affiliate to White associations on the ground that this would mean acceptance of subservient status, and they hope to achieve direct affiliation to international bodies controlling the various forms of sport, to the exclusion of associations organized on racial lines. They refuse to participate in "open international" sporting events on the ground that, in their opinion, these are merely window-dressing exercises to deceive the outside world. They stand out for non-racial sport from the club level upwards.

Representatives of nine non-racial organizations (swimming, soccer, table tennis, athletics and cycling, tennis, weight-lifting and body building, rugby, cricket, and hockey) met in Durban during March and jointly formed a S.A. Council on Sport (SACOS). Mr. Norman Middleton was elected president, Mr. Hassan Howa vice-president, and Mr. M. N. Pather secretary.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GAMES

Preparations for the S.A. Games, held in March and April, were mentioned on page 419 of the 1972 *Survey*. Invitations to participate were sent to a large number of sporting bodies in other countries, thus giving the Games "open international" status. This meant that all South Africans of adequate ability could compete, regardless of colour, except that in team events they represented their respective racial groups. In cases where S.A. had been suspended or expelled by international bodies, special dispensation was requested to allow competitors from other countries to participate (this applied in boxing, wrestling, cycling, weight-lifting, and soccer, for example). In some cases dispensation was refused, or individual countries declined to allow their citizens to take part. A few people defied such bans.

According to the issue of *Bantu* for July, there were contests in 28 branches of sport, and competitors from 32 countries, in-

⁷ *Ibid.*, 15 and 17 September and 24 October.

selected on a non-racial basis, since FIFA would not countenance separate teams from the various racial groups. Dr. Koornhof accepted this, but insisted that there should be no mixed trials. The best eleven players could be selected at a multi-racial tournament, he suggested.

According to a Press report,¹¹ in 1974 the S.A. Soccer Federation is to apply to FIFA for direct affiliation, to the exclusion of FASA and its affiliates.

The British Stars XI, a team of professionals, toured S.A. in July, and played one match against an African XI, winning by 3 goals to 2. The Africans had been coached by a member of the (White) National Professional Soccer League.

RUGBY

There are four controlling bodies in rugby, the (White) S.A. Rugby Board (SARB), which works in co-operation with the S.A. African Rugby Board and the (Coloured) S.A. Rugby Federation. National teams selected by these bodies are known as the Springboks, the Leopards, and the Proteas, respectively. The non-racial body, which opposes their policies, is the (Coloured and Indian) S.A. Rugby Union.

The New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU) invited a South African team to tour its country in 1973. But then more than half of the members of the Commonwealth threatened that, if this tour went ahead on a "racial" basis, they would boycott the Commonwealth Games, scheduled to take place in Christchurch during 1974. The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa insisted that the S.A. team should be selected by a racially-mixed committee at mixed trials: it would not object if a team selected on this basis consisted of White players only.

Groups such as HART and CARE¹² in New Zealand threatened to disrupt the tour unless conditions such as these were met; but they, in turn, were opposed by a group called ADSAT (the Association Defending S.A. tours). It was reported in February that the Labour Party Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Norman Kirk, had an assessment made of the likely effects of the S.A. tour, then told the NZRFU that it would be in the larger interests of the country if this tour did not take place. For the time being the invitation was, however, not cancelled.

Dr. Danie Craven, president of the SARB, stated he still hoped that it would be possible for a representative team (which would be called "South Africans", not "Springboks") to be chosen on merit, although the Government would not allow mixed trials. One difficulty was the uncompromising attitude of the S.A. Rugby Union. Officials of this Union stated¹³ that they welcomed Dr.

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¹² "Halt All Racist Tours", and "Citizen's Association for Racial Equality".

¹³ *Rand Daily Mail*, 9 April.

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Craven's bid for mixed trials, but wanted an assurance that this would lead to non-racial rugby at all levels within 15 years. Otherwise, the efforts of the SARB would be regarded as merely a manoeuvre to get white rugby back into the international arena at the expense of black sportsmen.

During March, Mr. Kirk said¹⁴ that his government's policy was still one of "dissociation and dissuasion". But the police believed that the proposed S.A. visit "would engender the greatest eruption of violence this country has ever known". A few weeks later he wrote to the NZRFU, officially requesting that the invitation to S.A. be deferred until a side was selected on merit. The tour was, thus, called off.

A Dutch Rugby Union decided not to tour S.A. in June-July, as had been planned, because of political objections by some members of the team.¹⁵ However, an Italian team did visit the Republic, playing one match against the Leopards, defeating them 24-4.¹⁶

A new organization called SART (Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour) has been formed in England with the aim of stopping a tour of S.A. by the British Lions in 1974. It is reported¹⁷ that Dennis Brutus and four other leading members of SANROC are closely associated with it, together with Peter Hain, the Young Liberals, the National Union of Students, the ANC-in-exile, and others.

TENNIS

As reported on page 426 of last year's *Survey*, S.A. was during 1972 re-admitted to the Davis Cup championships, to play in the South American zone instead of the European zone as in the past, where there was danger of withdrawals by eastern European countries that opposed apartheid. The committee of the Davis Cup nations ruled that any country that entered the championships and then withdrew because of S.A.'s presence would be subject to strong disciplinary action.

Mixed trials were not held, but the (White) S.A. Lawn Tennis Union (SALTU) invited the affiliated S.A. National Lawn Tennis Union (SANLTU), which represents African and many Coloured players, to nominate candidates. National selectors of the SALTU watched these nominees play at SANLTU championships, and decided that they were not up to the standard of the White nominees.

New Zealand had applied for the Federation Cup tournament (the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup) to be held in Auckland

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 17 March.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 6 February.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 9 July.

¹⁷ *Sunday Express*, 5 August.

during 1974. It was reported¹⁸ that Mr. Norman Kirk told his country's tennis authorities that if a team from S.A. were to compete, it would be acceptable in his country only if the team was, and was seen to be, chosen on a genuine basis of merit. Mr. Blen Franklin, president of the SALTU, assured the International Lawn Tennis Federation (ILTF) that the S.A. team would be chosen on merit. He added a reminder that the ILTU had ruled that the tournament would be held in N.Z. only if the authorities there accepted entries from all member-countries wishing to participate. Otherwise, the venue would be switched to Italy.

During October the SALTU announced that two methods would be used for judging form for the selection of a S.A. team. Two black women players, nominated by the SANLTU, would participate in the S.A. Breweries Open Championships in Johannesburg in November: this event was regarded as an open international. Secondly, a special tournament would be arranged featuring overseas teams as well as separate White, Coloured, and African teams from S.A. (The non-racial Southern African Lawn Tennis Union had repeatedly declined invitations to affiliate to the SALTU, thus would not participate.)

There was much argument and discussion in New Zealand. Representations from all three of the S.A. tennis bodies were considered, and efforts made to judge the comparative strengths of the SANLTU (African and Coloured players) and the non-racial body (mainly Indian and Coloured). It was eventually announced on 1 November that Mr. Kirk had refused to allow the Federation Cup Tournament to be held in N.Z. He considered that S.A. was making merely a token gesture in inviting African women to compete for selection by participating in the S.A.B. Open Championships, since there was apartheid at all other levels of play.

Mr. Arthur Ashe, the black player from the United States, was granted a visa to participate in these championships (his applications had in previous years been refused). The seven black men and women players from S.A. were eliminated in the early stages. They were given practice games by white players before their matches, but one of them pointed out¹⁹ that, apart from this, he had not had a single really competitive game since the last S.A. Open Championships, eighteen months previously.

During November, the S.A. Tennis Players' Association (representing white professional players) voted unanimously for the creation of an all-races executive committee.²⁰

CRICKET

Differences between the three controlling cricket bodies in S.A. were described on page 422 of the 1972 *Survey*. During

¹⁸ *Rand Daily Mail*, 27 July and 18 September.

¹⁹ *Star*, 15 November.

²⁰ *Rand Daily Mail*, 16 November.

March the (white) S.A. Cricket Association (SACA), led by Mr. Boon Wallace, and the S.A. African Cricket Association (SAACA), led by Mr. Harrison Butshingi, jointly formed a Cricket Council.¹ Mr. Wallace is reported² to have said that he would like to ask the Government, as a matter of urgency, to agree in principle to the selection of a South African team, rather than a Springbok team, representative of all who played cricket in S.A.

But Mr. Hassan Howa, president of the non-racial S.A. Cricket Board of Control (SACBOC) opposed this idea. He maintained that merit selection was impossible unless white and black played together from the club level upward. This would be lawful, he said, if private grounds were used and spectators excluded.³

Dr. Piet Koornhof announced in May⁴ that the S.A. Government would allow an open international cricket tournament to be held in the country, and would not interfere with the racial composition of visiting teams provided that no political motive was involved. Black teams from S.A. could compete in such a tournament. But no club-level inter-racial cricket would be allowed.

Mr. Howa had, earlier, agreed to serve on a select committee, consisting of two representatives of each of the three controlling bodies, appointed to try to devise a workable scheme for merit selection at the national level. At a final meeting of this committee, held in May,⁵ all agreed that merit selection should be supported at a national level for senior cricket, and also for schools teams and at provincial levels. It was agreed, too, that all cricketers should have proper facilities. (Few black teams have the use of turf wickets.) Mr. Howa proposed that a "super-league" should be created in various centres, consisting of the best white and black sides, and using private grounds. This would make true merit selection possible. But representatives of the other two organizations considered that such a scheme would patently not be acceptable to the Government, and there would be practical difficulties. Mr. Howa then stated that there was no point in continuing the discussions.

Mr. Howa announced that he intended asking the International Cricket Conference to give recognition to SACBOC.⁶ He planned to attend a meeting of this Conference in London, as an observer, following visits to a number of other countries. But he was refused a passport.

Early in 1973 the International Women's Cricket Council invited five South African women to play, as individuals, in an international team in a World Cup tournament in England. But this invitation was later withdrawn due, it was stated, to political

¹ *Sunday Express*, 4 March.

² *Rand Daily Mail*, 1 May.

³ *Ibid.*, 26 March.

⁴ *Star*, 26 May.

⁵ *Rand Daily Mail*, 28 May.

⁶ *Star*, 2 June; *Sunday Times*, 17 June.

pressure from the West Indies.⁷ Other proposed events that were cancelled because of the absence of merit selection in S.A. included a tour of Britain by a S.A. team at the invitation of the Test and County Cricket Board,⁸ and a tour of S.A. by the English team that won the Gillette Cup.⁹

The Derrick Robins XI from Britain did tour S.A., though, and the S.A. Government raised no objection to the inclusion in the team of a player from Pakistan and one from the West Indies, both of whom held British passports and played for teams in England. The visiting XI played and defeated an African XI at Soweto.¹⁰

It was mentioned earlier in this chapter that a Cricket Club of S.A. had been formed, with the initial plan of organizing friendly inter-racial matches on private grounds. In view of the Government's attitude, however, it was decided that members would concentrate, for a start, on providing coaching and promoting better playing facilities for blacks. The ultimate objective remained unchanged — to foster comradeship and good relations in cricket, within the framework of the law. Among the leading white members of the club are Andre Bruyns, the Natal captain, and Springboks Dennis Gamsy, Eddie Barlow, and Graeme Pollock.¹¹

The Datsun Company sponsored an international double-wicket tournament, which was held in Johannesburg during September. Couples from England, Australia, New Zealand, and Rhodesia accepted invitations to participate. An African couple from S.A. took part, but Mr. Howa's SACBOC declined to do so. SACBOC also prevented Basil D'Oliveira from playing by resolving that if he did so, he would not be accepted to play and coach under its auspices in Port Elizabeth during the British off-season, as had been arranged. The contest was won by Rhodesia. The S.A. African couple (which included a schoolboy) succeeded in winning one match, against New Zealand, in spite of their unfamiliarity with a turf wicket and lack of practice against experienced players.¹²

Dr. Ali Bacher, the Springbok captain, has announced his retirement from top-level cricket because of the intrusion of politics into the game.

SWIMMING

As mentioned last year, the non-racial S.A. Amateur Swimming Federation refused to affiliate to the (White) S.A. Amateur Swimming Union (SAASU). It declined to participate

⁷ *Sunday Express*, 6 May.

⁸ *Rand Daily Mail*, 29 May.

⁹ *Star*, 26 July.

¹⁰ *Rand Daily Mail*, 26 September and 19 October.

¹¹ *Sunday Times*, 17 June and 22 July; *Rand Daily Mail*, 7 August.

¹² *Star*, 30 July, 3 September, 30 September.

in the S.A. Games, and it applied to the International Swimming Federation (FINA) for affiliation in the place of the White body. It prepared a memorandum on the paucity of swimming facilities for blacks.

A new S.A. Swimming Association was formed in February, consisting mainly of African and Coloured swimmers in the Transvaal. It became affiliated to SAASU, being given voting powers equal to those of a White provincial association.¹³

The president of SAASU stated that swimming teams would in future be selected purely on merit; but the Secretary for Sport announced that this would not be in accordance with Government policy. Separate teams would have to be chosen to represent the various race groups. Any black swimmers of adequate ability could compete in the Games, but would be doing so as individuals.¹⁴

During the Games, a fact-finding mission of FINA toured S.A. It was announced on 31 August that the international body had decided to expel SAASU. South Africa would be re-admitted only when a single, integrated, governing body had been constituted.

South Africa is a member, however, of a recently-created International Diving Federation.

OTHER FORMS OF SPORT

Athletics

During June, a group of S.A. athletes, Whites and Africans, took part in the British international games. Joseph Leserwane won the 400 metres event. During a subsequent tour of several European countries, Danie Malan broke the 1 000 metres world record.

Cycling

In February the International Amateur Cycling Federation confirmed S.A.'s expulsion and refused a dispensation to allow cyclists from other countries to compete in the S.A. Games.

Teams from several overseas countries did, however, take part in the "Rapport Tour", a cycle race from Cape Town to Johannesburg which was held in October and was classified as an "open international" event. Teams of White riders were selected by the (White) S.A. Cycling Federation, and a team of Africans by the affiliated S.A. African Amateur Athletics and Cycling Federation. Subsequently the White Federation awarded its colours to the White riders who had competed, but not to the Africans. The African Federation presented its nominees with honours badges.¹⁵

¹³ *Star*, 26 February.

¹⁴ *Rand Daily Mail*, 27 February.

¹⁵ *Rand Daily Mail*, 15 November.

Golf

Nine golf tournaments or championships which are held regularly in S.A. have been deemed to be "open international" events.

A new co-ordinating body, the S.A. Golf Union, was formed in September, consisting of three representatives each of the (white) S.A. Golf Union, (white) Professional Golfers' Association, (black) S.A. Golf Association, and (black) S.A. Professional Players' Golf Association. In terms of the constitution, the chairman must be a member of the (white) S.A. Golf Union. One of the stated objectives of the new composite body is to work for better facilities for blacks.¹⁶

Boxing

Several black boxers from overseas have been granted visas to fight in S.A., including Bob Foster, the world light-heavyweight champion, to fight Pierre Fourie, and "Doc" Holliday to challenge the S.A. black national welterweight champion, Maxwell Malinga.

Women's Bowls

S.A. was one of the founder members of the International Women's Bowling Board, which arranged world championships in Wellington, New Zealand, in December. The S.A. Women's Bowling Association selected its team of five white players, but was then informed by the president of the N.Z. Women's Bowling Association that, in the interests of other participating countries, her Association had very reluctantly decided not to admit S.A. It transpired that she had consulted the Prime Minister, Mr. Norman Kirk, after Zambia had protested against S.A.'s entry. The S.A. Association pointed out that bowls was not a game that was popular among black women, hence it was impossible to have a mixed team. In the event, Zambia did not send a team because it had no black women bowlers.¹⁷

Basketball

A Chinese woman, Miss Ho Tong, was selected for a basketball team to compete against Rhodesia. She was awarded Springbok colours.¹⁸

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 17 September.

¹⁷ *Rand Daily Mail*, 24 July; *Sunday Express*, 29 July and 7 October.

¹⁸ *Rand Daily Mail*, 18 October.