

PRESIDENT OF ANOCA

(Harare, 4th November 1990)

- Mr Secretary General of the Ministry of Sports of the Republic of Zimbabwe
- Mr President of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa
- Mr President and members of the Union of African Sports Confederations
- Dear colleagues of the ANOCA Executive Board
- Mr President of the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee

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- Ladies and Gentlemen of the South African sports leadership.

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Secretary General of the ANOCA,

Messrs Francis Nyang'eso and General Secretary

ANOCA, Professor Rene 2850. and of the

UCSI 330 President of the Federation and

Mr LESE Hayatou, President of the Union.

These personalities have invested much effort in the struggle against racial discrimination in sport.

I would also like to extend a fraternal greeting to the representatives of the South African Sports Organizations and I thank them with all my heart for being here with us today.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

It would never have been possible without the support and assistance of the President of the International Olympic Committee, His Excellency Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch.

It was he who asked the ANOCA to react, in agreement with the African Sports Movement, to developments in the situation in South Africa.

On behalf of you all, I

would like to pay a sincere tribute to President Samaranch.

The unity which Mr Samaranch is pursuing is the goal of the world in the field of sport, a unity which will doubtless make an enormous contribution to peace in the world. I thank Samaranch, who has always been concerned to bring about an atmosphere of

serenity in the practice of sport, relies for the solution to the South African issue on the African sports Leaders, who are best placed to appreciate the situation, since they are in direct contact with the realities of their continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

The reason Olympism has been able to thrive and blossom is that it is based upon harmony, understanding between peoples, equality, fraternity and friendship between men and women from all countries who meet on that most peaceful of battlefields: the sports ground. Olympism could never have served the cause of peace and human progress effectively if it had not made efforts to put an end to a wide variety of disputes and to oppose all kinds of discrimination.

Harmony and equality between men,

and today. We are anxious to work for the sports activities of a nation which, like ours, has the right to claim a place within the world Olympic and sports movement.

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the occasion of the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964, the Olympic

Committee of South Africa, which had not publicly denounced racial

discrimination in its country as the IOC had asked

it to do, was denied the opportunity to participate in those Games. The

question of South African participation in the Olympic Games in Mexico

in 1968 was raised at the Session held around the time of the Olympic

winter Games in Grenoble in 1968. By that time, a

number of the then influential members of the IOC succeeded in adopting

resolution passed authorizing the South African athletes to take part

in the Olympic Games in Mexico, although racial discrimination was still

rife in South Africa. This decision created an international scandal,

the IOC rule is quite plain - that any NOC practising racial

discrimination ceases to be recognized and may not send any athletes to

the Olympic Games.

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It was then that, at the instigation

Executive Committee level in Brazzaville, nearly all the African

countries announced their withdrawal. The countries of Eastern Europe,

Latin America and Asia supported this decision and withdrew from

participation in the Games in Mexico.

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