

CM/775 (XXVIII)

Part II

Add.1

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

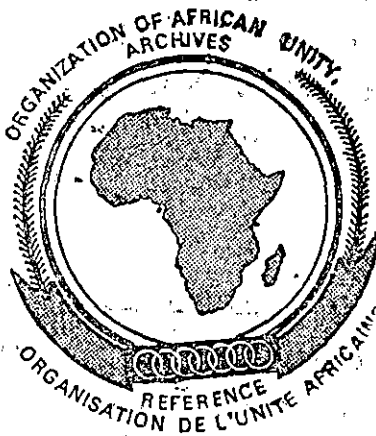
Twenty-Eight Ordinary Session

LOME, Togo - 21 - 28 February 1977

ADDENDUM TO THE PROGRESS REPORT ON SANCTIONS
CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

CM/RES.488 (XXVII) ON THE SPORTS

BOYCOT



CM-775

ADDENDUM TO THE PROGRESS REPORT ON SANCTIONS
CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION

CM/Res.488 (XXVII) ON THE SPORTS
BOYCOT

By the terms of Resolution CM/Res.488 (XXVII), paragraph 3, OAU Member States were invited to reconsider their participation in the Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada, if New-Zealand was authorized to take part in it.

All the African countries, with the exception of two, namely Ivory Coast and Senegal, did in fact boycott the Twenty-First Olympic Games, thus dealing a severe blow to this important world sporting event. Such an occurrence, of course, necessarily gave rise to some comment. The African countries and their Organization, the OAU, were bitterly criticized abroad. The Olympic International Committee made no secret of its dissatisfaction at the wholesale withdrawal by the Africans. The Committee's President, Lord KILLANIN, had threatened to take sanctions against the African countries. However, he finally renounced his intentions, claiming that such a punishment would not affect those who were really responsible for the boycott. In fact, this conciliatory attitude on the part of the International Olympic Committee was dictated by the latter's impotence, since some of its members had refused to endorse condemnation of African countries, which would have been interpreted as tacit support for Apartheid and its friends. The Assembly of International Federations itself, which met in Barcelona, Spain, in October 1976, was unable to reach agreement over the adoption of a resolution condemning countries which boycotted the Montreal Olympic Games.

Problems also arose among the African countries themselves, resulting from a failure to reach unanimous agreement on boycotting the Montreal Games. The Republic of Guinea, displeased with the participation of two African OAU Member States, namely Ivory Coast and Senegal, in the Montreal Olympic Games, sent the OAU Secretary-General a cable on 19 August 1976, the full text of which is reproduced as follows:

QUOTATION

Honour communicate to you on instructions from my Government, a message from the National Committee of the Republic of Guinea. Stop Kindly ensure distribution to all Member States for their national Olympic Committees Stop The courageous and firm attitude of the African countries in Montreal was a striking illustration of Africa's unshakeable determination to henceforth oblige other countries and peoples to respect its personality Stop Unfortunately History records that, on every fighting front with its enemies, Africa has always found the same traitors to its cause in its ranks Stop To please its imperialist masters, the puppet Governments in Ivory Coast and Senegal have forced their sportsmen to participate in the Montreal Games Stop

Considering that the current phase is above all characterized by the necessity for permanent fighting for the rehabilitation of human personality and dignity Stop

Considering that sport is a unifying factor among all peoples, cannot tolerate Apartheid without betraying its historic mission Stop

The Guinean Olympic Committee calls upon all national Olympic Committees to insist on the suspension of Ivory Coast and Senegal from all inter-African sports competitions by requesting the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa and the OAU to adopt this decision which will do honour to Africa Stop The Guinean Olympic Committee commends all the African countries who have opted for the honourable path and dignity by withdrawing from the Twenty-First Olympiad Stop and End".

Signed: Toumany SANGARE member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Guinea, Minister of Youth and Sports, President of the Olympic Committee of Guinea.

END OF QUOTATION.

This message had been preceded by another one also issued by the Republic of Guinea and which asked for the convening before the end of August 1976 of an extraordinary session of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa. The text of that message is given in full hereunder.

QUOTATION

"MINISTER OF YOUTH AND PRESIDENT OF THE GUINEAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
GONAKRY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU
ADDIS ABABA

Following our declaration of 31 July 1976 concerning the insulting, unworthy and highly treacherous attitude of the Ivory Coast and Senegal owing the last Olympic Games of Montreal, the Guinean Olympic Committee requests the convening before the end of August of an extraordinary General Assembly of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa STOP AND END Highest and fraternal regards STOP

Tomany SANGARE, Minister of Youth,
Art and Sports - Conakry."

The General Secretariat made it its duty to convey these messages to Member States and to the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa for information purposes and for eventual action to be taken in that regard. Some States deemed it proper to inform the General Secretariat that they were in favour of convening an extraordinary session of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa. However, in view of the fact that the Organization of African Unity is not empowered to convene meetings of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, the General Secretariat has been content to refer all the opinions it received from Member States to the leaders of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa.

Taking due account of these diverging view points, it became absolutely necessary to have a clarification on that score. It is fortunate that the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa has finally decided to convene an Extra-Ordinary Session of its Executive Committee to examine this "problem arising from the Olympic Games of Montreal", a problem that threatened to transform simple misunderstandings and quarrels about method and procedure into useless conflicts likely to give birth to manifold implications.

This extra-ordinary meeting of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa was held from 24 to 26 January, 1976 in Yaounde, capital of the United Republic of Cameroon and seat of that Organization.

It was held in a serene and cordial atmosphere, thus giving the lie to the most pessimistic forecasts of the international press. The OAU General Secretariat which was represented at this meeting has publicly stressed from the very start of the opening session that, transcending all considerations pertaining to the diverging attitudes of Africans at the last Olympic Games, it was necessary to probe into the intention of the African States as a whole, for if it is true that some African States might have disagreed with some others, this applied in fact to method and form rather than principle or substance. Elsewhere, the General Secretariat recommended to the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa to refrain from holding any but the positive aspects at Montreal, as a source of inspiration for the future and in order to transcend all secondary divergences and thus be in a position to tackle in complete unity and harmony the arduous but exalting task of developing sport in Africa and of eliminating racial discrimination in sport. This appeal which was launched by the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity has uncapped eventual tensions and thus did the rallying cry for unity and mobilization in favour of to objectives of the struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination finally prevail.

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As regards the stand to be adopted in respect of New Zealand in sporting events to come the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa received a letter dated 15 December 1976 which was addressed to the Secretary General of that body by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Hon. M.R. Muldoon. In this letter, the text of which appears as Annex I of the present addendum; the Prime Minister of New Zealand declared that he was convinced that no further important contacts would be made with teams from South Africa selected on a racial basis and that his Government is supporting at present the international campaign launched with the aim of eliminating apartheid of which the boycotting of South Africa in the fields of sports is an important element.

In this same letter, the Prime Minister of New Zealand assures the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa that "the government of New Zealand abhors the selection of all sporting teams from South Africa or elsewhere on the basis of colour" and that as a proof of this it publicly undertakes "not to tolerate, encourage or accord any official recognition to exchanges with teams selected on the basis of apartheid."

Apart from this letter of New Zealand Prime Minister we do not need any further proof than the fact that the sporting attitude of this country has undergone a positive evolution after the Montreal boycott. The following events prove it:

3rd August 1976 (Times)

The New Zealand Rugby Union cancels the MAORI South African Tour planned for this year.

September 1976

The "Auckland Rugby Union" turned down a South African invitation as guest of the "Northern Transvaal Union" because of the unfavourable political situation in that country.

8th September 1976

The "Petrona Rugby Club" withdrew its invitation to "Diagers Rugby" of South Africa to visit New Zealand.

1st October 1976

The special envoy of the government of New Zealand M. NEITH HOLYOAKE to the 31st Session of the United Nations, declared that the New Zealand government would draw the attention of sporting organizations in New Zealand to the resolutions regarding apartheid in sports.

October 1976

Before the withdrawal of African countries from the Montreal Olympics, 66% of New Zealand public opinion was for sporting exchanges with South Africa.

After the boycott, this 66% categorically affirmed no longer willing to have any sporting link with South Africa (source: The Newspaper "Auckland Herald").

October 1976

The "Australian Ice Hockey Association" refused to authorise the "Australian Ice Club" to visit New Zealand because of the host country's sporting relationship with Africa.

November 1976

The New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Tolboys, undertakes an African Tour to explain the policy of his government as regards apartheid in sports. He affirms that New Zealand Rugby teams would no longer visit South Africa until such time that South Africa changed its apartheid policy.

November 1976

New Zealand Games

As a result of the withdrawal of African countries from the Montreal Olympic Games, the U.S.S.R and several other European countries have refused to send their athletes to the New Zealand Games. This attitude led to the cancellation of the Games which should have taken place in January. The Prime Minister, M. R. MOLDOOM said that this decision was indirectly connected with the African boycott.

29th November 1976

The New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association announced that it is withdrawing the invitation to host the international women's cup tournament of the International Federation 1978 in case this tournament cannot take in Australia due to the presence of South Africa and Rhodesia.

3rd September 1976

The New Zealand Rugby Team coach M.J.J Stewart, says that New Zealand should take note of African threats before going to South Africa (there is no hope of South African players ever playing in New Zealand until such time that apartheid in sport in South Africa is stopped.

Because of the intentions of the Prime Minister of New Zealand declared in the letter mentioned and New Zealand's discontinuation of sporting relations with South Africa, which is a concrete fact, the President of the Supreme Council/Sport in Africa, Mr. Abraham ORDII, sent the Secretary General of the OAU an official letter dated 28 January 1977 informing him that the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa enlarged to include Representatives of Member States and Presidents of African Sports Confederations, decided to recommend to the Organization of African Unity to lift the boycott created during the Olympic Games by re-establishing sporting relations between African countries and New Zealand. The Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa made a resolution on this subject. The texts of this letter and the said resolution can be found in annex II of this document.

On the basis of this objective information established through the exchange of official letters between the highest officials of the Wellington Government and the directors of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, the latter expressed the wish that the Organization of African Unity should seriously envisage the possibility of lifting the African sports embargo which is currently weighing heavily on New Zealand.

Although sufficiently clear in itself, the official stand of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa makes it imperative to clarify the situation to avoid any possible misunderstanding.

In fact, when the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa decided to recommend to the OAU to lift the ban on sporting relations with New Zealand, its action was guided by the official stand of New Zealand, expressed in the letter already mentioned by the Prime Minister, Mr. Muldoon, and through the initial changes in New Zealand itself as stated earlier. The Executive Committee

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The adoption of the Resolution CM/488 (XXVII) was no doubt a result of the sentiments expressed on Soweto. These legitimate sentiments having passed, it now appears judicious to rectify the stand of the OAU and adopt a general policy which, in future and without distinction, will be valid for all countries.

SUPREME COUNCIL FOR SPORT IN AFRICA

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

YAOUNDE, 24-26 January 1977

RESOLUTION

ON THE BOYCOTT OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, meeting in Yaounde from 24 to 26 January 1977 in an extraordinary session enlarged to include Government representatives of Member States and the Chairmen of the African Sports Confederations,

Recalling the resolution adopted on the boycott by the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the Thirteenth Summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Mauritius,

Considering the change which appears to be taking place in New Zealand in respect of sporting relations with the South African racists;

CALLS ON the Organization of African Unity to follow the development of the situation in New Zealand with a view to possible reconsideration of the African stand on this question.

You will note in fact, thanks to the document entitled "Problems posed by the withdrawal of the African countries from the Montreal Olympic Games" that the situation in New Zealand is changing. According to reports from various sources, the sporting relations between New Zealand and South Africa are actually on the decline. In addition to these reports, there is the official stand taken by the Prime Minister of that country in a letter he sent to us. The document relating these events and facts, together with a photocopy of the letter from the Prime Minister of New Zealand are attached for your information.

In view of this new attitude and the impending international games in which New Zealand is to participate with the African countries, the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa enlarged to include Government representatives of Member Countries and the Presidents of the African Sports Confederations, decided to recommend that the Organization should normalize the situation created as a result of the boycott of the Olympic Games by re-establishing sporting relations between the African countries and New Zealand.

To this end, I have been directed to enter into contact with the OAU General Secretariat to ascertain, how soon can the SCSA lift the ban on such relations.

This would indeed help to promote the changes initiated by the Government of New Zealand and reassure our athletes who require sufficient time to prepare for the proposed games. The Executive Committee therefore calls on the OAU Current Chairman to ensure that the necessary decision is taken as soon as possible.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the renewed assurances of my highest and fraternal consideration.

Abraham ORDIA
President of the Supreme Council
for Sport in Africa.

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Annex 1

Yaounde, 28 January, 1977

To: The Secretary-General
of the Organization of African Unity,
P.O. Box 3243,
Addis Ababa,
ETHIOPIA.

Dear Sir,

The deliberations of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa which has been enlarged to cover Ministers of Sports and Chairmen of African Sports Federations have just ended in Yaounde.

If, for reasons of modesty, we do not speak of success we can nonetheless say that the discussions took place in calm atmosphere which enabled us to arrive at conclusions characterised by understanding and tolerance. Delegates showed a sense of maturity.

These results, of which we can be proud, were no doubt achieved thanks to the perspicacity of the various speakers who, right from the beginning of the deliberations, stressed that it was in delegates' interest to burry the futile difference which only divide and weaken Africa to the advantage of those who do not cherish the development of her constructive values.

In this connection, I have the pleasure to point out how decisive the contribution of your representative, Mr. Nzomwita was.

New Zealand law. New Zealanders, realising that the system of apartheid is based upon racial discrimination, are in no doubt that it is wrong, and want to see it ended. Having regard to the action of sporting bodies in some other countries. New Zealanders find it hard to understand why this country has become the focus of international attention. We support the international campaign aimed at eliminating it, of which the sporting boycott of South Africa is part. The New Zealand Government deplores the selection of any sports team, from South Africa or anywhere else, on a basis of racial discrimination. We have therefore said publicly that we do not welcome, encourage, or give official recognition to exchanges with teams selected on the basis of apartheid. Sporting bodies in New Zealand have traditionally been autonomous organisations wholly free from Government control. When my Government was elected to office last year it undertook to respect their autonomy and to let them decide for themselves when to compete with overseas. While upholding their right to decide for themselves, however, the Government has reminded them that with the freedom to make decisions for themselves goes

an obligation to take into account the wider implications those decisions may have. The Government has thus made clear its attitude to further sporting contacts with teams from South Africa selected on the basis of apartheid. During the last few months there has been a significant change in the attitude of New Zealanders towards sporting contacts with South Africa. This has been reflected in a series of decisions taken by sporting bodies themselves. On 29 November the New Zealand Lawn Tennis Association announced that it was withdrawing the invitation it had previously issued for the 1978 Federation Cup Competition for international women's tennis to be held in New Zealand if it could not be held in Australia. On 3 December,

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Annex I

Canadian Embassy

Canadian Embassy,

B.P. 5720

Yaounde, Cameroon

17 December, 1976

To: Mr. J.C. Ganga
Secretary-General,
Supreme Council for Sport in Africa
B.P. 1363
Yaounde,
CAMEROON.

Dear Sir,

The New Zealand Government, which has no mission in Yaounde has requested the Canadian Government through its Embassy here, to send you the text of Premier Muldoon's message in reply to your letter of 29 November. I quote below the full text of the telegram which reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Ganga,

In your letter of 29 November, which I have just received, you asked me to clarify my Government's policy on sporting contacts with South Africa. I welcome the opportunity to state our position to you, and to the members of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, because a number of misconceptions and misunderstandings have arisen in recent months over the question. I want to make quite clear my Government's position on the policy of apartheid followed by the Government of South Africa. New Zealand is a multi-racial society. There is a long standing tradition of mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation among the various groups in this country. Racial discrimination is alien to our way of life: it is, in fact, explicitly forbidden by

the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, the largest sporting organisation in this country, announced that it had declined an invitation to send a representative Maori team to South Africa in 1978. Other sporting bodies in this country have also cancelled planned exchanges with South Africa. Public opinion in this country has in fact moved to the point where I believe there will be no more significant contacts with racially selected teams from South Africa.

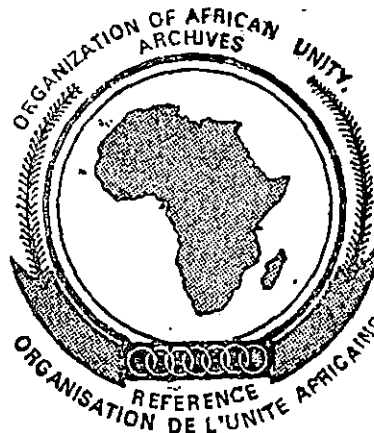
I hope this letter will remove any misunderstandings that have arisen over the attitude of New Zealanders and my Government's policy.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) R.D. Muldoon

Prime Minister of New Zealand

December 15, 1976



1977-02

Addendum to the Progress Report on Sanctions Concerning the Implementation of Resolutions CM/Res.488 (XXVII) on the Sports Boycot

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

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