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For freedom in Southern Africa

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

30th March 1984

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

I have just received news of the decision of the Rugby Football Union to proceed with the English rugby tour of South Africa. I am deeply disappointed and am sure you will share our concern at the grave implications of this decision.

I have refrained from writing before to you personally about this matter as I had sincerely believed that the RFU would be convinced by the overwhelming case against the tour. I was both pleased and encouraged by the statements you made last year in relation both to the proposal that the MCC should tour South Africa and to the wider issue of sporting relations with apartheid.

I do not believe that you will want to leave matters as they are. You will recall that President Mitterand in similar circumstances intervened successfully to persuade French rugby authorities to abandon their tour last year. I am convinced that an intervention by you will be equally successful.

Can I suggest that you seek an urgent meeting with the President and Secretary of the RFU to convey to them your personal desire that they reconsider their decision. Such a step will make it clear to the whole world the seriousness of your Government's commitment to the Gleneagles Agreement.

I hope that you will give this suggestion full consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Huddleston CR
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President
Anti-Apartheid Movement.