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Late Sunday night both Dr. Martin Luther King and Floyd McKissick expressed their approval of the black athletes proposal to boycott the 1968 Olympics. A New York meeting between the civil rights leaders and spokesmen for the black athletes Harry Edwards is tentatively scheduled within the next ten days.

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EXCLUSIVE AND FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles: The nation's ^{WACK} athletes moved Sunday to make good their threat to boycott the 1968 Olympic games by calling upon established civil rights leaders for aid in implementing the threat and by asserting that the American government and Sports Establishment must meet several demands, including the reinstatement of deposed heavy weight champion Muhammed Ali, if the boycott is to be averted.

In a telegram to Arthur Lentz, the Executive Director of the United States Olympic Committee, the black athletes declared that they will carry out the boycott unless the following five demands are met:

1. The New York Athletic Club must immediately cease practicing segregation in the billeting of players and on the NYAC membership roles. Although the NYAC has denied that it practices segregation, the black athletes are in possession of documents from both athletes and sports writers which, according to the black athletes, prove that the NYAC has never billeted a Negro or a Jew in its dormitory facilities during track and field meets at Madison Square Garden. This despite the fact that hundreds of Negroes and Jew have been participants in and stars of the events.

2. The black athletes demanded the all-white teams from both Southern Rhodesia and South Africa be barred from the Olympics; that individual white athletes, professional and amateur, be barred from participation in any sports event in the United States. The statement of demand went so far as to mention specific white athletes such as Gary Player, the

golfer from South Africa, and Paul Nash, the South Africa sprint star. The black athletes argue that since the governments of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia oppress black citizens of these countries these athletic teams and individuals should be barred from competition. "America's black athletes will not participate in games or track meets against these white Africans whose governments exploit and suppress black men," Harry Edwards, the San Jose State College Professor and spokesman for the black athletes, told this reporter.

3. The black athletes also demanded that an additional Negro coach be added to the olympic coaching staff. Stanley V. Wright, a Negro, is presently a staff coach but the black athletes dislike him intensely. They speak of him as an "Uncle Tom", they say his function is to keep black athletes from complaining about the slights they receive.

4. The black athletes are also demanding that at least one Negro be placed on the U. S. Olympic Commission itself. The statement of demands went on to take note of the fact that one time Negro Olympic track star Jessie Owens had criticised the proposed boycott and informed the Commission that Owens "because of his Uncle Tom stand" will not be an acceptable appointee.

5. The black athletes also demanded that Muhammed Ali be reinstated as heavyweight champion of the world.

Simultaneous with their telegram of demands to Lentz, the black athletes sought the support of Dr. Martin Luther King and Floyd McKissick, the Executive Director of CORE. Former baseball great Jackie Robinson has already spoken in support of the black athletes and he, also, has been asked to fully associate himself with the proposed boycott.

The black athletes have picked up surprising support from white sports writer's on the East coast. Robert Lipsyte of the New York Times devoted his entire column last Saturday to ~~the~~^a sympathetic treatment of the proposed boycott; the news director of a major television network informed Harry Edwards that he not only supports the proposals but would use his influence with sportscasters on all networks. It can also be disclosed that the bulk of information indicting the NYAC for discrimination was compiled by a white sports editor and given to the black athletes.

In an all out effort to build strength for their cause the black athletes also took these additional moves which are calculated to create political turmoil:

-- In a lengthy telegram to New York Senator Robert Kennedy, the black athletes demanded that the Kennedy Foundation cease collecting funds for a John F. Kennedy memorial Medal to be given to winning American athletes at the 1968 Olympic games. According to information received by the black athletes, the Kennedy Foundation is now collecting such funds in the New York area and the money is to be channeled through the Olympic commission. " Nothing could more desecrate the grave and memory of your late brother, Edwards wired Kennedy, "than to have money raised in his name used by an organization that deliberately discriminates against black people. "

-- The black athletes sent yet another telegram to New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller demanding that he and his family divest themselves of their holdings in South Africa. It has been an open fact for years that the Rockefellers have extensive holdings in South Africa and the statement made it clear that the black athletes will embarrass the

New York governor on this issue should he seek the presidency. The black athletes also demanded that Governor Rockefeller immediately investigate the charges made against NYAC. So intense is the feeling against South Africa and Southern Rhodesia that certain black power advocates are planning demonstration--disruptive ones at that-- at any sports event where white athletes from these countries are allowed to participate.

The black boycott could seriously damage America's chances in the 1968 Olympics. The U. S. basketball team would have to compete without UCLA's towering athletic genius Lew Alcindor; Tommie Smith the San Jose State College track star and holder of ten world records, will not attend the Mexico City Games; and Lee Evans, also from San Jose State College and the holder of four world records, will also honor the boycott. Further developments in the boycott plan will emerge after the black athletes receive a reply from Mr. Lentz pursuant to their request for a meeting to discuss the entire matter. It was also disclosed that the black athletes are seeking a meeting with civil rights leaders Martin Luther King and Floyd McKissick in the next ^{two} ~~few~~ weeks.

End and Gonenko call early Monday URGENT.