

Press Review

Racial discrimination in South Africa

(from the *Daily Mail* 12. 8. 61.)

CAPE TOWN. — Theunis Theart, 21, one of the European South Africa's crack long-distance cyclist, has been suspended for three months because he rode behind Coloured cyclists in the 'Tour de Boland' on Republican Day. Theart, who did not take part in the race but 'joined in for practice', was summoned to appear at an executive meeting of the Western Province Amateur Athletic and Cycling Association. He was told that he would not be allowed to compete in any cycling competition for three months.

He said he did not officially enter, and did not pay any entrance fee. He went because the secretary of the non-racial Boland Cycling Union, Mr. J. Green, said that the Coloured cyclists wanted to see him in action. When the Tour started, Mr. Martin Du Toit, a committee member of his federation warned not to take part. 'Then, Mr. Du Toit arrived with three policemen and told me they would take me away if I rode with the others, but I did not see how they could arrest me because it was a public road and anyone who

wants can ride on it', he said. He then rode behind the Coloured cyclists for most of the race. (Without any commentaries! *Ed.*)

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Recently the South African Olympic Association has written to the International Olympic Committee to reiterate their policy as previously given, that it stands by their undertaking that should non-white sportsmen be up to the requires standard, they will be considered for inclusion with teams being sent overseas.

If this is already one step, what would be the reply if one asked the clubs and national federations of white athletes what they are doing to help the non-whites to reach that required standard? Are non-whites allowed to train with Europeans and vice-versa? to such a question we have (unfortunately) to reply negatively.

One federation at least seems to have understood the problem, inasmuch the South African Amateur Boxing Federation has sent several of his officials to Cape Town at the end of September to attend the first national non-European championships. These officials were present to offer help and advice and it is likely that they will also make a note of boxers who could be candidates for

future South African teams to go overseas. But here again, why two different championships: one reserved to European boxers and a second one for non-whites? If the effort of the S.A. Bowling federation can be appreciated, what about the other federations?

No racial discrimination says Art. 1 of the Olympic Charter!