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DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL ANC MISSIONS

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 1993

Dear Comrades

re: CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Department of Arts and Culture of the African National Congress will be holding a "Culture and Development Conference" from Sunday, 25 to Friday, 30 April, 1993. This will culminate in a national cultural manifestation, including the launch of an international film. Both events will take place in Johannesburg. The fundamental objectives of this conference are:

- The formulation of a non-sectarian democratic cultural policy involving all key cultural stakeholders.
- The presentation of draft policy on the role of a democratic government in the sphere of culture.
- To place the issue of the cultural dimension of development decisively on the national political agenda.
- The establishment, after the conference, of a Cultural Development Project whose main task will be to implement strategies and policies arising out of the conference.

A steering committee consisting of representatives from the DAC, the ANCWL, ANCYL, ANC Women's Emancipation Commission, Association of Community Arts Centres (ACAC), the Civic Association of the Transvaal (CAST), the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the South African Workers Cultural Unit (SAWCU), has been formed to guide and assist the conveners with the conceptualisation of the conference. The DAC intends broadening the steering committee to involve other cultural players across the broad spectrum.

The People Shall Govern !

The immediate tasks facing the steering committee are :

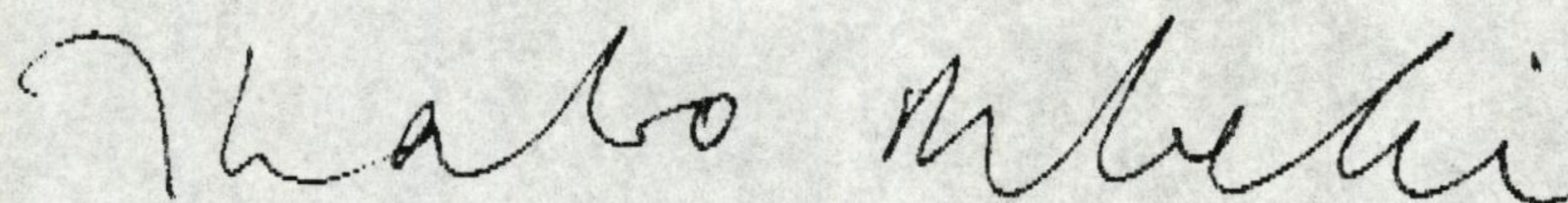
1. The formation of a board of trustees that will act as custodian of both the conference and the CDP. The board of trustees will be as inclusive as possible and will consist of various persons who are not necessarily of a high political profile, but are of standing within their various communities and have a keen interest in cultural affairs, as well as a long-standing commitment to issues of democracy and development.
2. The formation of international committees whose responsibilities will be to give input into the conference, but also to assist with either sponsoring or raising funds for it.

The DAC hopes, through this initiative, to play a role in the nation-building process which South Africa is so desperately in need of.

We therefore write to you to request for your assistance in identifying key cultural persons to participate in the conference, who could also assist in defining the content of the conference (including gaining access to information, training opportunities, opportunities for comparative research, and so forth). It should be mentioned that, given the current economic situation, all foreign guests will be expected to provide for their own flights, accommodation, etc.

We shall continue briefing you on progress in regard to the conference and look forward to your early response.

With Best Regards
In the Year of Votes For All!



THABO MBEKI
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

TM/tg