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Zimbabwe Committee for Child Survival and Development  
(Mobilisation of Artists, Writers and Intellectual Workers)

704276

Telex: 2458 ZW

4 December 1987

6 Fairbridge Avenue  
Box 1250  
Belgravia  
Harare  
Zimbabwe

Executive Chairperson  
Mrs. Sally Mugabe

Dear Mr. Tambo

Re: Harare Symposium on the Survival and Development of Children  
in the Frontline States and Southern Africa

It gives me great pleasure to extend an invitation to you to attend the Symposium of Artists and Intellectual Workers for Child Survival and Development in the Frontline States and Southern Africa, to be held in Harare from March 1st to 5th, 1988. The Symposium is jointly sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Zimbabwe Committee for Child Survival and Development, of which I am the Chairperson.

The Harare Symposium is the second of a series organised with UNICEF assistance. The first one was held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 1987. A copy of the "Dakar Plan of Action" and background material are enclosed.

Like in Dakar, the Harare Symposium is to mobilise Artists and Intellectual Workers to use their respective talents as accomplished communicators to contribute to the survival and development of Africa's children. The five-day programme will conclude with a musical rally.

A recent UNICEF report, "Children on the Frontline", which focusses on the impact of apartheid's destabilization and warfare in Southern Africa states

:

"A small child dies every four minutes in Angola and Mozambique. In the nine countries of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), some 50,000 children die before the age of five".

The Symposium will focus the attention of the international community on the threat caused by apartheid's economic and political destabilization on the survival and development of children in the Frontline States and Southern Africa. Efforts made by Governments and peoples in the region to address the underlying causes of under-development will also be highlighted.

I understand that Mr. James Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, has already been in touch with you in this connection.

The Harare event will also raise funds to support projects designed to address problems faced by children.

Amongst those being invited are: President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia who is also Chairman of the OAU and Chairman of the Frontline States; Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi and former President of Tanzania; President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana; Mr. James P. Grant, Executive Director, UNICEF; Mr. Ide Oumarou, Secretary General of the OAU; Mrs. Daniele Mitterand, wife of the French President; Mrs. Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela; Mr. Sole Soyinka, Nigeria's 1986 Nobel Prize winner in Literature; Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa; Ali Mazrui of Kenya; Harry Belafonte, UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador; Stevie Wonder; Manu Dibango; Lionel Ritchie; Miriam Makeba; Paul Simon; Hugh Masekela; Letta Mbulu; Caiphas Sesenya; Eddie Murphy; Richard Pryor; Michael Jackson; Paul Newman; Sidney Poitier and Pele (Edson Arantes do Nascimento).

I would greatly appreciate your participation and active contribution in lending your support both to the deliberations and proceedings of the Symposium and the musical rally to be held in Harare.

Please direct your reply to Mr. Djibril Diallo, Special Assistant at UNICEF (3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 - Tel.: (212) 326-7309).

Mr. Oliver Tambo

President, ANC

c/o Mr. Dickson Nkembo

UNICEF/Lusaka

ZAMBIA

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Sally Mugabe  
Chairperson