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BLACK MUSIC ASSOCIATION (TORONTO CHAPTER)

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BMA CALLS FOR BOYCOTTS OF RAY CHARLES AND NEIL SEDAKA

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The Black Music Association/Toronto Chapter (BMA/TC) is calling on African-Canadians in particular, and the total population in general, to boycott Ray Charles and Neil Sedaka's concerts when they perform at Ontario Place's Forum June 25th and July 9th respectively.

According to the Register of Entertainers, Actors and Others Who Have Performed in Apartheid South Africa dated August 1988, Mr. Charles played in the racist state in October 1981 and Mr. Sedaka entertained there in May of 1982.

Mr. Charles is regarded as "public enemy number one" by the anti-apartheid movement because of his track record on the cultural boycott. Before he went to South Africa, Mr. Charles received several requests to reconsider performing in South Africa.

The Azanian Peoples Organization (AZAPO), the African National Congress (ANC), the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) were among those asking Mr. Charles not to collaborate with the South African regime.

Mr. Charles' tour of South Africa was particularly offensive. One of his concerts was scheduled in Soweto on October 19th -- a day reserved by Blacks for anti-apartheid protests in commemoration of the banning of 18 Black consciousness organizations in 1977. The people organized a boycott of this performance. Only 30 people showed up and the concert was cancelled. Later concerts were cancelled as well his entourage was stoned by Black protesters.