

LuM/039/0056/115

225602 ANCNY UR

RCA JAN 30 1981

10TPTQONEONE G  
REF: 0909179A

8950511 ONE ONE G  
PLEASE QUOTE REF 13030001 BAROD IN REPLY  
FROM: JERRY DAMMERS, ARTISTS AGAINST APARTHEID U.K.  
C / O SERIOUS PRODUCTIONS, LONDON

FOR THE ATTN. OF OLIVER TAMBO AND THABO MBEKI  
VERY URGENT/

EXCERPTS FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE FEATURING PAUL  
SIMON.

HUGH MASEKELA  
AND MIRIAM MAKEBA IN LONDON ON 30TH JANUARY 1987

PAUL SIMON: 'THE COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID AT THE U.N. HAS ASKED TH  
AT I  
CLARIFY MY POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE CULTURAL BOYCOTT AND THIS IS MY  
STATEMENT AND MY LETTER TO THEM.'

'29 JANUARY 1987  
TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH N. GARBA  
CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID  
UN

SIR

I WRITE TO YOU AS AN ARTIST COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO THE APARTHEID SYST  
EM  
OF SOUTH AFRICA. LIKE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OF CONSCIENCE IN THAT COUNT  
RY

AND AROUND THE WORLD WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE STRUGGLE TO END THI  
S  
SYSTEM, I AM WORKING IN MY FIELD TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS GOAL.  
AS AN ARTIST WHO HAS REFUSED TO PERFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA I REITERATE  
AND INTEND TO MAINTAIN THIS POSITION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE U.N.  
CULTURAL BOYCOTT.  
YOURS SINCERELY  
PAUL SIMON '

'I HAVE ALSO HAD DIRECT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ANC AND THEY HAVE TOL  
D  
ME THAT I CAN SAY TO YOU THAT THEY HAVE TOTALLY REVERSED THEIR POSIT  
ION  
ON THE CRITICISM OF THIS ALBUM AND THIS TOUR AND THAT ANY FURTHER  
QUESTIONS TO THEM, OR THEY NEED TO CONFIRM WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID.  
THAT OLIVER TAMBO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ANC, WILL BE HOLDING A PRESS  
CONFERENCE IN THE L.A. PRESS CLUB ON FEBRUARY 2ND AND WOULD BE GLAD  
TO  
ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AND THESE QUESTIONS IF THEY ARISE'.

PAUL SIMON: 'WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY OPPOSITION TO THE TOUR'.

QUESTION FROM PRESS: 'WOULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE GONE  
PUBLIC ABOUT MAKING AN L.P. IN S.A. BEFORE ACTUALLY RECORDING 'GRACE



QUESTION CONTINUED: 'TO EITHER CONSULT WITH THE ANC OR TO ....YES, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CRITICISM?'

PAUL SIMON: 'NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I AS AN ARTIST DON'T FEEL I HAVE TO CONSULT WITH ANYBODY BEFORE I BEGIN A PROJECT - I DIDN'T ASK PERMISSION TO DO THE PROJECT - NOR DID I WANT ANY RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON WHAT I MIGHT SAY OR THINK OR WRITE. PERHAPS THIS CONTROVERSY WOULD HAVE WAITED HAD I DONE THAT. BUT WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THE CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR VARIOUS SIDES TO ARTICULATE THEIR POSITION. AND I THINK THAT IS PROBABLY ALL TO THE GOOD. IF I HAD TO DO IT OVER AGAIN, I WOULD NOT ASK ANYBODY'S PERMISSION.'

QUESTION FROM PRESS: 'BUT YOU SAID IN THE PAST YOU CONSULTED CERTAIN PEOPLE. LIKE QUINCY JONES, FOR INSTANCE, WAS A NAME I HEARD MENTIONED?'

P.S. 'YES, I DID ASK THEIR ADVICE, BUT I DIDN'T GO PUBLIC. IN MY 20 OR 30 YEARS OF RECORDING. I NEVER MADE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO OR ASK FOR A REFERENDUM AS TO WHETHER I SHOULD CONTINUE WITH SOME ARTISTIC IDEA THAT I HAD. OF COURSE, I WASN'T ABLE TO FORESEE THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS THEN, BUT IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN, I WOULD DO IT EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.'

QUESTION: 'THE SLEEVE NOTES ON THE BACK WERE VERY SORT OF DILETTANTEISH IN THAT YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN IN COLUMBIA OR JAMAICA OR ENGLAND OR ANYWHERE. THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO APARTHEID AT ALL, NOR TO THE SITUATION UNDER WHICH THESE MUSICIANS SUFFERED THERE?'

P.S.: 'THIS IS NOT A QUESTION, IT'S A STATEMENT.... OF YOUR OPINION.'

QUESTION CONTINUES: 'COULD I ASK WHY YOU DIDN'T?'

PAUL SIMON: 'YES, BECAUSE THIS IS A MUSICAL ALBUM, I WAS APPROACHING THE SUBJECT FROM A CULTURAL POINT OF VIEW/ A CULTURAL POINT OF VIEW HAS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, BUT I WAS NOT COMING AT IT FROM A POLITICAL ANGLE, AND I VERY INTENTIONALLY LEFT OUT THAT SUBJECT TO HAVE A CONCENTRATION PUT ON THE MUSIC. FRANKLY, I FEEL THAT OUT OF ALL THE DISCUSSION THAT HAS SURROUNDED THE ALBUM I THINK THAT THERE HAS BEEN TOO LITTLE ATTENTION PAID TO THE MUSIC AND TO THE CULTURE. THERE IS QUITE A LOT OF TALK AND DISCUSSION ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS, WHICH I AM NOT AN EXPERT ON. WE HAVE TWO ARTISTS HERE WHO ARE. I KEPT MY ATTENTION AND FOCUS ON THE MUSIC AND THE CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE WORK - THAT WAS THE LIMITS, AND THE DELINEATION OF THE PROJECT WHEN I BEGAN.'