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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
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06/08 '90 15:25 P02

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

qf South-Afrlca

Afrikkajainen kansalliskngngresei

Statement on the attendance of the "Pretoria Youth Choir" at the XIX World Conference of the Internatmnl Society for Music Education, Helsinki 7-12th August, 1990.

In response to inquiries about the ANC's position on the above visit we wish to state:

1/. The international cultural boycott of Apartheid South Africa is still in place and fully endorsed by the ANC and the broadly-based Mass DemoCratic Movemeht(MDM) in South Africa. The haycott has the active backing of the world-v wide Anti-Apartheid Movement, the UN and other international agencies. It is strictly adhered to by the OAU, the Non-Aligned Movement, indeed the overwhelming majority of the world's countries. The Nordic states, too, have been foremost in applying it.

2/. The boycott does not include democratically-minded an anti-racist South African artists, cultural workers, sportspersons and academics who seek to perform outside South Africa. These democratic and anti-racist forces must be encouraged and strengthened at all levels to assist them in the struggle against Apartheid.

3/. The cultural organs of the MDM, mandated by the collective liberation alliance, .play a pivotal role in advising and giving assistance to the international community on matters related to cultural contact with South Africa. .

4/. The Cultural Desk of the United Democratic Front(UDF). after consultation with the various cultural organs within the MDM, has issued the following statement regarding the above visit:

"The Cultural Desk wish to state it categorically clear that we have not been consulted, neither informed, about the invitation or performance by the PTetoria Youth Choir at the XIX World Conference of the lntmntianal Society for Music Education. After broad consultation with our cultural structlm on the ground it is therefore clear that the Pretoria Youth Choir is not part of any of our progressive cultural structures in the country." '

5/. Guided by the above, the ANC expresses its grave concern over this visit and its implications for the cultural boycott. International pressure has played a crucial role in weakening the Apartheid System and forcing it to meet some of the key demands of the oppressed majority. The cultural boycott is an important component of this pressure and we call on all those connected with the l8MB conference to observe it.

Mohamed Hussein

-ANC Representative

6th August 1990.

06/08 '90 15:25 P03
(Translation, original in Finnish)
FOREIGN MINISTRY
,Helsinki 15.3.1990
Ellen Urho
ISME 1990
Sibelius Academy
P 0 Box 86
00251 helsinki

Ref: Participation of citizens of the Republic of South Africa
in ISME's XIX Conference in Helsinki, 7-12.8.90.

The Foreign Ministry refers to your letter of 11.1.90 in which
you enquire about the opinion of the Ministry concerning possible
participation of citizens of the Republic of South Africa in the
above mentioned conference.

The Nordic Foreign Ministers in Turku 6-7.3.90 approved revised
Nordic visa regulations concerning citizens of the Republic of
South Africa which make it easier, for example, for South
Africans to obtain visas to cultural-events in the Nordic
countries. It is the opinion of the Foreign Ministry that the
World Conference of the International Society for Music Education
(ISME) can be regarded as promoting dialogue and democratisation
inside South Africa. Thus the Foreign Ministry believes that
granting of visas to the South African choir, orchestra, and
lecturers taking part in the conference can in principle be
favourably considered.

Jaakko Blomberg
Head of Political Dept.

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 future
 Erica Swart. south Africa
 African music activities for chlldren
 Caroline van Nlckurk. South Africa
 3.15-5.15
 An experimental approach to rhythm in African. Indian and Western
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 Elisabeth Oarhle. South Africa
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 Caroline van Niekerk. South Africa
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 Christopher Dew. South Africa
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FROM: Comrade Munich. lbull

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The Cultural Desk wish to state it categorically chain that We have not bun
consulted neith-r informed :bout the invitation or performance by the Pretoria
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Education.

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cultural structures in the country.

Yours in the struggle.

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