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DEPARTMENT 01: ARTS AND CULTURE  
31 August 1992  
The Director  
South African National Gallery  
The Gardens  
CAPETOWN

Dear Marilyn

The African National Congress notes with concern the events surrounding the Joint Working Group meeting of August 18th 1992.

In our previous communication where you had sought the ANC view with regard to the negotiations for the transformation of State cultural institutions I clearly outline our position. These were positions and guidelines adopted at the DAC Negotiations Workshop of April this year, as contained in the document I had asked Gordon to pass onto you. I believe he

did so. All the major cultural formations were represented in the workshop including COSAW, PAWE, FAWO, ACAC and FOSACO. Comrade Cheryl Carolus chaired the workshop which was also addressed by Thabo Mbeki.

Central to these guidelines is the recognition that the ANC should facilitate the negotiation

process, ensure that democratic process and procedures are followed, and that the joint working groups should be as representative as possible. This has been our concern with the

SANG and I had assumed that we had agreed that these objectives were to be pursued and accordingly instructed Gordon to proceed and consult with formations and groups to facilitate

the broadening of the working group.

You are also aware that I had been invited to address the staff of the SANG on the issue of the

ANC representation with your institution. In this meeting ( and in a letter to you previously) I made it clear that Gordon had been appointed to fulfill this function and that

this had also been agreed with the ANC Western Cape Regional Executive Committee. It was for this purpose that I had requested that Gordon be present at your meeting of August 18

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The People Shall Govern!

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I have been informed that the working group asked that Gordon leave the room while the issue of the participation of the ANC representative be "debated". I understand that the ANC

representative was made to wait for 2 hours while the deliberations continued and the working group meeting ended and dispersed without even the courtesy of calling in our representative to report on the discussion and decisions taken. This, is totally unacceptable.

We have been frustrated for some time at the total lack of progress with regard to the restructuring of the SANG and the above experience has further eroded any faith and confidence that the "negotiations" you are currently engaged in will achieve this end the desired objectives.

The above has important implications for initiatives we had intended to situate in your working group. This initiative are The Dumile Retrospective Exhibition and the South African Art Exhibition that will tour Africa and abroad. These are very important projects

for us and we cannot put them at risk for all the reasons outlined above. We have thus decided to locate these projects elsewhere. Please go ahead and make the arrangements for the return of the MOMA/ZABALAZA Exhibition works to the artists concerned.

With Best Regards

In the Year of Peace and Democracy!

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

MWS/mm

cc: Cde Cyril Ramaphosa, General Secretary, ANC

Cde Tony Yengeni, Secretary, ANC REC Western Cape

Cde Cheryl Carolus. ANC NWC

Cde Themba Sirayi, Convenor, ANC Museums, Monuments Commission

Cde Mewa Ramgobin, ANC DAC National Chairperson

All Regional DAC Co-ordinators