

# UNITY IN ACTION

Towards a Program to End Cultural Collaboration  
With the Apartheid Regime in South Africa

P.O. BOX 77515  
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90007

3 December 1984

CONTACT: Ron Wilkins  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITY IN ACTION HAS RESCINDED ITS CALL FOR A DEMONSTRATION AND PICKETLINE that were to have protested an "Image Awards" program which would have saluted, among others, three entertainers who have performed in racist South Africa in violation of international sanctions--Bob Hope, Tina Turner and Danniebelle Hall. Ironically, Bishop Desmond Tutu has been invited to receive an award in the same program which would have juxtaposed the Nobel Peace Prize recipient to this uncaring and opportunistic trio who have acted repeatedly to undermine the cultural boycott.

An agreement which represents an historic victory for anti-apartheid forces has been reached between Unity in Action and the NAACP, sponsor of the awards show, after long and tedious negotiations.

In a statement to Unity in Action issued yesterday over the signature of Beverly Hills/Hollywood chapter president, Willis Edwards, the NAACP acknowledged error, indicating that members of its recording (nominating) committee had been unaware of Hope's, Turner's, and Hall's previous performances in South Africa. In addition to the NAACP's withdrawal of the nominations of Turner and Hall and repudiation of Hope as an honorary chairperson, the statement pledged to reveal the "connections" of all three entertainers "with apartheid South Africa" at the upcoming Image Awards ceremony, December 4 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion. In the future, according to the NAACP statement, "chairpersons for each category shall screen each nonimee's performance history more thoroughly to avoid this problem again."

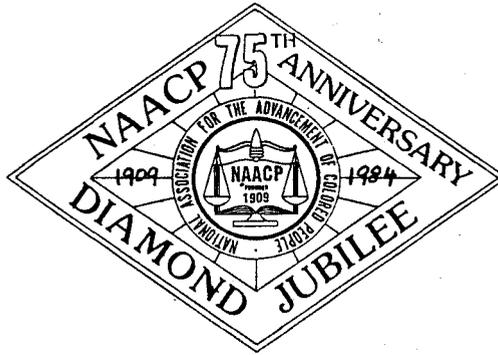
Unity in Action vows to maintain its vigilance regarding artists' compliance with the cultural boycott, and will continue to confront those who collaborate with apartheid, when necessary through public exposure and well-publicized, highly visible noisy demonstrations. Similarly, our call for a demonstration and picketline at the South African consulate\* on December 17, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., to commemorate South African Heroes Day is another reflection of our commitment.

The overall objective of Unity in Action is to develop political and material assistance to African struggles for liberation. The organizations which form the coalition are Southern Africa Support Committee, Patrice Lumumba Coalition, Pan African Secretariat, Southern Africa Resource Project, and Congo Support Committee.

\*9107 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills (one block west of Doheny)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE  
Beverly Hills/Hollywood Chapter

Willis Edwards, *President*  
Mansfield Collins, Esq., *1st Vice President*  
Alex Brown, *2nd Vice President*  
Collette Wood, *3rd Vice President*  
Carmen Hawkins, Esq., *Secretary*  
Leonora Slider, *Treasurer*



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December 1, 1984

Mr. Ron Wilkins  
Cultural Boycott Task Force  
Unity In Action  
P.O. Box 77515  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Re: Tina Turner, Danibelle & Bob Hope

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

After being informed that the above entertainers were nominated for 1984 Image Awards, performed in South Africa despite the United Nations sanctions against the apartheid, we have withdrawn their nominations. This also applies to Mr. Bob Hope, Honorary Chairperson. Members of our recording committee was not informed that those entertainers nominated had gone to South Africa, and therefore they received the nominations.

The above persons names shall be mentioned at the 17th Image Awards ceremony stating their connections with the apartheid of South Africa.

Following our meeting with you , and being informed that these entertainers had gone to South Africa, we not only respected your commitment to the struggle for justice in South Africa, but we commended you for bringing this error to our attention. We never refused to withdraw the nominations as stated in your letters, but in fact stated that we would review the situation, and had to meet with our Image Awards Chairpersons before acting on this problem.

We were saddened by the fact that you had sent correspondence to other nominees and activist in the fight for Justice and Freedom in South Africa, especially since we felt that we had met with you in good faith and was more than willing to find a solution to this oversight on our part.

It is unfortunate that this problem has occurred, in the future the Chairpersons for each categories, shall screen each nominees performance history more thoroughly, to avoid this problem again.

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We must also emphasize that the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP has been very active with other community organizations in the fight to end the apartheid in South Africa along with trying to inform more American's especially blacks of the current tragedy in South Africa. Last year we worked with the Media Forum, and Artist and Athletes Against The Apartheid with a Community Forum.

We hold strong in our commitment to work against the Apartheid, and we hope that you will work with us to hold strong to our commitment so that someday soon the blacks in South Africa can live in Peace and Justice.

Yours in Freedom,



WILLIS EDWARDS

President

Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP

cdc/WE

cc: Mr. E.S. Reddy, U.N. Undersecretary General, U.N. Center  
Against Apartheid  
Mr. David Ndaba, African National Congress  
Mr. Stevie Wonder  
Mr. Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director, NAACP  
Hon. Maxine Waters, Assemblywoman, 48th District  
Councilman Robert Farrell, TransAfrica