Ray Charles defied United Nations sanctions as well as appeals from the African National Congress and performed in racist South Africa in October, 1981. Even an attack with stones and bottles from angry Black youths inside the country failed to keep Ray Charles's entourage from "entertaining apartheid" and fattening themselves selfishly with "blood money".

This flagrant violation the U.N.-imposed cultural boycott against neo-Nazi South Africa is what has prompted the call for a picketline and demonstration. Ray Charles lied to Jet magazine early last year when he claimed to be ignorant of the international ban on artistic/cultural collaboration with the apartheid regime at the time of his visit. The singer was more forthcoming later in a Dec. 4, 1986 interview with U.S.A. today when he stated that he'd go back to South Africa tomorrow "if the right organization invited me."

During a June, 1986 meeting between Unity In Action representatives and Joe Adams (Ray Charles's manager), Adams boasted of how Ray Charles was paid $100,000 to sing "America" at Ronald Reagan's inauguration. At one point in the 2½ hour meeting, Adams declared that he (Ray Charles) would play for the Ku Klux Klan if they "paid the money."

Rather than pledging support to the Cultural Boycott, an August 11, 1986 follow-up letter from Ray Charles to Unity In Action defended his performances in racist South Africa. Ray Charles stated that he was invited there by "several of the new Black nations of South Africa." Obviously, the "new Black nations" to which he referred are in reality apartheid's glorified reservations for the indigenous population.

In a bitter twist of irony, Welkom, South Africa, the township where Black youths angrily rebuffed Ray Charles's entourage, is nearest to the mineshaft which claimed the lives of 50 miners on the 31st of last month. The tragedy followed by one day the longest labor strike in South Africa's history. Meanwhile, within South Africa an oppressive system that benefited immensely from Ray Charles's tour continues the daily torture, maiming, and slaughter of the Black majority. Your participation in this demonstration is vital.

DOWN WITH CULTURAL MERCENARIES! LIBERATE SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA!
VICTORY TO THE ANC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO OF NAMIBIA!!
"Hit the road, Ray, and don'tcha come back no more!"