AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA CONGRATULATES TONY BENNETT ON REFUSING TO PERFORM IN SOUTH AFRICA

New York, N.Y. . . . Judge William Booth, the president of the American Committee on Africa, today congratulated Tony Bennett on his courageous decision not to perform in South Africa. Bennett turned down a lucrative offer to perform in Sun City, part of the South African homeland of Bophuthatswana.

Booth said "Tony Bennett's decision that he won't perform in racist South Africa is the kind of courageous action we have come to expect from him. He has always been willing to raise his voice for freedom anywhere in the world. South Africa would have paid Tony Bennett very well indeed to lend his prestige to the racist system of apartheid. But once again he has chosen to put the cause of freedom and the dictates of his own conscience above financial reward, just as he did when he marched with Martin Luther King. Tony Bennett joins the many distinguished artists and athletes who are saying no to apartheid and no to South Africa."

Bennett declined to publicly announce his decision. He felt that he did not need public recognition for doing what is right.

The South Africans claim to have made Bophuthatswana an independent black country. The United States and the United Nations have refused to recognize this "independence" because it is only a device for denying black people citizenship and equal rights in South Africa itself. South Africa is the only country in the world that recognizes the "Republic of Bophuthatswana".

The American Committee on Africa is one of the foremost U.S. organizations working to support a free South Africa. Founded thirty years ago, it brings the facts about the total domination of 20 million black people of South Africa by 4½ million whites to the American people. William Booth is a former New York City Human Rights Commissioner and New York State Supreme Court Judge who is now in private practice.