

COME SEE US MR. PRESIDENT

President Ronald Reagan

*Now and again I hear your name called
People say you're some movie star
You might say I've got some airs
I'm just not calling anybody Sir
Even if they're a president of the USA
I hear you call Pretoria allies
That's something serious I reckon
So I'm writing this humble missive*

I invite you Mr. President

*To the carpet of smashed black skulls
Upon which towers majestic Jo'burg city
A desecration of the gold-vein-milker's grave
The yellow earth his sepulchral pity
For a piece of protective apparel
For a wisp of imprisoned justice
Locked away in steel vaults*

I invite you Mr. President

*Visit Crossroads the city of sack and tin
Across white-on-black asphalt highways
You may snap-shot Dimbaza even
From the skyscrapers beyond the eye away
The rats and mice make quite a scene
While disease pursues a strategy based on skin
So bring your fair children along*

I invite you Mr. President

*To fallow undulating plains of Transkei
I reckon that'll suit you good
Your synthesized food has sure markets
You may try quarantine Lebowa too
I know you won't mind the cholera*



MAYIBUYE
CENTRE

*Come play with tummies that hang like buckets
For rodeo here is unknown Mr. President.*

*I invite you Mr. President
For a jolly afternoon train ride
Down to Soweto in the yellow dust
By the station a-shooing clouds of carrion
Join the queue and buy your offal fast
Then select some bones for soup
The maggots you won't mind I know
Not for utopian alternatives.*

*I invite you Mr. President
Oh, for the spell-binding PUTCO ride
Across the Rand to laconic Pretoria
Many people there will recognise Mr. President
As my fate cannot be foretold
Sure I will be unsupportable an aria
Sure you can't forget the old American way
»I brought me-self one nigger miscreant«
What a jolly good ally they'll sing*

*I beseech you Mr. President
Sure you can't let slip this chance
I know you are busy – try just once
You'll see our scars
You'll see our tears
And we'll demonstrate we're in the right
For pretend as you may
You know why we fight.*

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– LOVEJOY KARAS