FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHELPS-STOKES FUND PROTEST ADMITTING SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY TEAM TO THE U.S.

New York, New York, July 15, 1981. Phelps-Stokes Fund, through its President, Franklin H. Williams, today called upon the city of New York to prohibit the use of "any public facilities" by the South African rugby team, the Springboks, which is scheduled to play in New York City in September.

In a telegram to the Honorable Gordon Davis, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, Williams said "we understand the South African rugby team, Springboks is scheduled to play at Randalls Stadium in New York city in September. Such an event will clearly identify New York city as a jurisdiction violating OAU and U.N. resolutions and probably triggering an African boycott of the 1984 Olympics.

We urge you to publicly announce that our city will not permit any South African national teams to utilize public facilities in this city until apartheid has been eliminated from the national policy, laws and practices of that racist South African state."

In addition the Phelps-Stokes Fund protested the granting of visas to the South African rugby team by the State Department.
in a communication to Secretary of State Alexander Haig. In said communication, signed by its president, Franklin H. Williams, the Fund appealed to the Department to use its influence to discourage private or public groups from competing against the South African team in violation of the U.N. and O.A.U. resolutions and for fear that such competition would "endanger the success of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics" by probably triggering a boycott by African and other anti-apartheid states.