OSSIE DAVIS TO GREET MANDELA ENVOY AT ALBANY RECEPTION

Actor Ossie Davis will be a keynote speaker at an Albany reception to honor a member of Nelson Mandela’s African National Congress visiting delegation, and to call for increased economic sanctions against the government of South Africa. The event, hosted by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism and the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, will be held on Wednesday, June 27th at 5:00 p.m. in Room 711A of the Legislative Office Building on State and South Swan Streets, and is open to the public.

The African National Congress representative will be greeted by Assemblyman Albert Vann, Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, and other community leaders and anti-apartheid activists.

In conjunction with Mandela’s current U.S. tour, the reception will launch a renewed campaign to intensify economic sanctions against the government of South Africa. Mandela has made the call for continued international pressures against the white minority regime a central theme of his tour. Mandela’s representative in Albany will be presented by the anti-apartheid coalition with signed ballots pledging U.S. supporters’ commitment, to the sanctions campaign.

According to Vera Michelson, co-chairperson of the Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, "Mandela’s release is a tremendous victory, but he spent 27 years in prison for a goal which is still far from won: a democratic, unified, nonracial South Africa. It would be a tragedy if the international community pulled back now. We are campaigning for sanctions to be increased rather than removed."