Dear Fellow Activists,

Some 35 people from around the region (and several people from other places) will be coming to Albany on February 5th for the one day "Struggling With the Struggle" Meeting. Please let us know when you are arriving, and if you're coming in on Friday night whether you need a place to stay. We need this information in order to plan the lunch on Saturday and to set up the small group discussions. You can call Vera Michelson (518-436-0562) or Debbie Maxwell (518-393-4002).

After consultations with Prexy Nesbitt, Imani Countess, and Jennifer Davis we have worked out an agenda for the day that begins to get at some of the questions we laid out in the previous letter. Please take a look at the agenda and get back to us with any suggestions you have (we can't promise to do everything you suggest, but we'll try our best).

Before you get to Albany we suggest that you think about organizing in your area in preparation for the discussion. If you can write a half page or one page description of what's happening in your area and what you think is the potential for future action that would be great. A lot of people are doing work around the elections in South Africa, but remember our primary focus is what do we do after the elections. We are trying to focus the discussion on what are new constituencies or new linkages we need to make in our work, what are new foci of organizing in the next period and how this work fits into what else is going on in your community.

We've enclosed some materials that were sent in by groups that we have been in touch with. This material is not comprehensive, but rather is a sample of some of the work and thinking going on right now. Please bring along to the conference copies of materials you think might be useful (we won't have copying facilities so, if you can, bring along 40 copies).
Finally, there are a few logistics we wanted to lay out before you arrive.

Copying Costs. Because we've run up a big copying bill we're asking people to contribute $5 toward copying costs for materials for the conference.

Food. There aren't restaurants around where we are meeting, and in any case we only have an hour for lunch. So plan to bring a bag lunch or bring $6 for some of the best Indian food you've ever eaten.

Lodging. If you plan to arrive Friday night and need a place to stay:

---Red Roof Inn - Reservation # 1-800-843-7663; $46 for one double bed; $50 for two double beds; $4 to get there from the airport. It's not in town but we will give you a ride in the morning.

---State Street Mansion Bed and Breakfast - 281 State St.; 518-462-6780; $49 for a single; $59 for a double; $79 for 2 double beds; share a bathroom; includes a continental breakfast; within walking distance of conference.

---If interested in floor space, we will try to arrange it. Call Vera(Mike) or Debbie.

Snow Date. February 26th. We will call you if it becomes necessary to postpone the meeting due to bad weather. Save February 26 just in case.

Sincerely,

Vera and Debbie

Vera and Debbie for CDCAAR