



South Africa @work

Newsletter of the South African Consulate General in New York

Volume 2 Issue 3

July—September 2001

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Current Exchange Rate:
US\$1.00 = R9.26
October 4, 2001

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From the Desk of the Consul General

We close the month of September on a very sad note. The world watched the most chilling act of terror in the 21st century. Many nations lost their citizens alongside the more than 5,000 U.S. citizens. We dip our South African banner and convey our sincere condolences to all families and governments who lost their loved ones.

South Africa lost one citizen, Mr. Nick Rowe. He has been identified and his remains have been transported to South Africa on the 27th of September. Other South Africans who inquired after their loved ones all made contact and we are relieved to announce that all other citizens on our "missing" list were accounted for.

We have all followed current events on the news and the

conclusion is that the security situation may remain tense in the medium to long term as the offensive intensifies against perpetrators.

A word of thanks and appreciation to those who signed up on our register. Registration was overwhelmingly subscribed. We invite all South Africans to log on to our website and register. Those who do not have the Internet please complete the attached form and return it to the South African Consulate General. This register is important to emergency situations including natural cyclical disasters that are regular occurrences in this part of the world. We recognize the rights of all South Africans (including those who have a status in the US) to their privacy and that will be respected. This information will only be used for emergency situations and only with your consent.



In spite of all these, our mission remained focused in promoting South Africa's growth by sustaining strong relations with all levels and sectors of US society. The September 11 tragedy also calls on all of us to work harder in creating a secure, stable and tolerant world that is equitable, fair and just.

Let us pledge to that,
Thami X N Ngwevela
Consul General

South African Government Statement On Terror Attacks in USA

President Thabo Mbeki has learnt with shock and dismay of today's terror attacks in cities of United States of America. On behalf of the people and Government of South Africa the President condemns these dastardly actions.

The South African Government joins the world in unreservedly denouncing these senseless and horrific attacks. The Government further calls on the international community to unite against global terrorism. The government expresses its confidence that the United States' authorities will ensure the perpetrators face the full might of the law.

On behalf of the Government and people of South Africa the President expresses his condolences to President George Bush and the people of the United States. During this time of incredible national hardship and grief the President extends his sympathies to those who lost loved ones.

COMMENTS BY SOUTH AFRICA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN PARLIAMENT ON THE TERROR ATTACKS IN THE U.S.

Last week, on the fateful Tuesday, 11 September 2001, the whole world watched with horror, disbelief and shock at the deplorable acts of terror perpetrated against the United States of America and its people. These carefully calibrated murderous acts of terror, which maimed and killed thousands of innocent people, deserves our strong and unequivocal condemnation. We join the international community in expressing our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to those who fell victim to these acts of hate by the faceless terrorists. Our Government has also conveyed its message of support and sympathy to the Government of the United States.

Driven by outrage of these unmitigated acts of terror and the spirit of solidarity with the American people and others from various countries, our country has remarkably demonstrated that the pain of the American people in their darkest hour was their's too. The response of the public has been overwhelming as shown through church services and the signing of the book of condolences by politicians and

members of civil society. True to our character as South Africans we collectively and in unison responded to the calamity that befell the United States of America.

In his conversation with President Thabo Mbeki, President Bush conveyed best wishes to the people of South Africa and thanked them for their support and agreed that terrorism needs to be confronted by all countries and has to be approached in a cool and calm headed way.

The two Presidents also agreed that this fight against terrorism should not be seen as a fight against any religion, culture and race as well as an act of collective punishment and collective guilt. They agreed that they should make every effort that whatever is done is directed at the perpetrators of these heinous acts. They also agreed that the world should unite in a coalition against terrorism and this coalition requires serious discussion and input from all countries.

In this regard we unreservedly condemn acts of violence, perpetrated against the

Muslim communities in South Africa as well as elsewhere in the world. Coming from a successful World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, any acts that are directed against any particular people on the basis of their religion, color and faith should be opposed as this will play into the hands of the wicked forces that committed these dastardly acts. Acts that encourages and perpetuates Islamophobia, anti-Arab and anti-Semitism and any other form of prejudice and discrimination must be eliminated.

The South African Government has not been approached to participate in any military activities. We will continue to cooperate with the American authorities and others with regards to information sharing, monitoring the activities of the terrorist organizations. We will continue to work collectively within the ambit of the United Nations with all member states to deal with terrorism.

This is informed by our values as a nation and as government we are convinced that this will be in our national interest.

JOINT STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICAN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES

The terrorist attacks in the United States of America last week shook all of humanity. It starkly reminded us again of the depth to which we can sink in our inhumanity towards one another.

It was a source of encouragement to note that almost the entire world responded with utter revulsion to such cowardly acts that cruelly and horrendously took the lives of so many innocent people merely going about their ordinary daily lives. Amidst the indescribable tragedy the overwhelming decency of human beings the world over found expression in the unreserved condemnation of those terrible deeds of cruelty.

To that we wish to add our collective voice of condemnation of those acts and to express our deep felt sympathy to the American government, people and particularly those who lost family and friends. We share in their sense of loss and can only trust that they will take some

sustenance from the knowledge that so many people all over the world mourn with them.

The events of last week are also a renewed call to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism. Those acts emphasised that we are all vulnerable to terrorism. We hope that the culprits will be identified, apprehended and severely punished.

This is a time that the world should stand together in pursuit of those objectives. Terrorism seeks to put itself above and outside of the law. Our steps against terrorism should studiously be within international law and the charter of our world body.

We need wise leadership and statesmanship in this period of looming crisis. The actions taken should not deepen tensions and further divide the world for it is in those circumstances of strife and division that terrorism finds fertile ground. The recent history of our own country has

taught that negotiation is the surest means of finding lasting solutions to even the most seemingly intractable political problems.

In combating and seeking to eliminate terrorism we must address the root causes of problems around the world and find just solutions to them. In the Middle East, particularly, efforts at arriving at a just and peaceful settlement should be redoubled.

If out of the tragic events of last week the world can find a renewed will to co-operate in finding just solutions to the problems that threaten the safety, security and well-being of us all, the highest tribute would have been paid to those who lost their lives.

Signed:

Nobel Peace Laureates
Mr. FW de Klerk
Mr. Nelson R. Mandela
Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu

Closing Statement by Minister Dlamini Zuma at the World Conference Against Racism

At the end of this landmark and historic Conference, I think we will all agree that it was right that this conference was held and consensus reached on practical steps to be taken to push back the frontiers of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance which are frighteningly on the rise in many parts of the world. I would imagine that we would also agree that it was proper that this Conference should be held in South Africa, a country that has witnessed the most egregious form of institutionalized racism, yet rose to become a living testimony that racism can be defeated with the collective efforts of the international community.

Gathered at this Conference, as Member States, we have at some time or another stood at the precipice. At each moment, we stepped back and courageously dug deep into our strength and made a supreme effort to make the Conference a success, that really it is. It was through the daring act of faith that sustained us through to the finish, because, we must have said to ourselves that for the sake of posterity we must lay a firm foundation for the future of tolerance and harmonious coexistence that will be free from the cancer of racism.

Indeed, we have found our way through the turbulent sea of events, at each point along the way we had to respond creatively to both anticipated and unanticipated events.

Like the blooming and blossoming flower in the spring, we have agreed on a fresh start and the new road-map. We have agreed that the depredation of the systems of slavery and colonialism had the degrading and debilitating impact on those who

are black, broadly defined.

Consequently, we agreed that a clear and unequivocal apology constitutes a starting point in a long and arduous journey of finding one another. An apology restores the dignity, self-worth and humanity of the black body, broadly defined. We also agreed that other remedial actions would have to be adopted to correct the legacy of slavery and colonialism and all other forms of racism. We agreed to work consciously to uplift women who have been victims of these ills, because of their race and gender.

We agreed that the discrimination against, and the lack of opportunities by the minorities and the indigenous people everywhere as a result of their origin, culture, tradition, language, standing in society and their refugee status, could only be ignored to our perpetual peril. Accordingly, we have reached consensus that access to education and changing curricula to reflect the interests of every group in every society must be encouraged. We requested the media and other forms of communication medium to help promote positive values of tolerance, understanding, ubuntu-humanness and the richness of our world diversity.

We have agreed as Conference, that entering our jargon and global discourse is the notion and the process of globalization. We have equally agreed that globalization has impacted on countries differently. It has rendered precarious the economies of countries with the terrible legacy of slavery and colonialism while benefiting mostly the developed countries.

Wherever it went, especially in the developing South, it has left in its wake the dehumanizing absolute poverty, economic marginalization, social exclusion and underdevelop-

ment. Globalization has created the economic refugees who have taken to fleeing the misery of poverty in their countries in search of succor and better living conditions in the rich and prosperous developed countries. Unfortunately, these refugees have been at the receiving end of the worst form of racism and xenophobia.

The Conference, therefore, agreed that this process should be harnessed and directed at the most pressing challenge of our time: "poverty eradication". Globalization has generated enough wealth and resources to do that. We also agreed to deal with the structural conditions that sustain inequality and inequity of the global economy that in turn encourages underdevelopment and marginalization, which is at the root of racism today.

Through the Programme of Action and the Declaration, we unanimously agree to launch the Global Army Against Racism in all countries to work assiduously to rollback and uproot the scourge of racism. From the intergovernmental, to non-governmental and civil society, we agreed in our various fora to work jointly in partnerships to take our work forward. The political Declaration we have just adopted is indeed action orientated and practical. It is now up to Governments and civil society to ensure its implementation.

We have agreed that coming from the centuries that entrenched chauvinism and the pernicious system of segregation, this current century, must at its end, serve as a fulcrum against racism and free us once and for all from all those outdated anti-human and anti-social ideologies whose burden we all carry up to today.

Ever wondered what separates South Africa from the rest of the world? Well, here is a list of typical South Africanisms:

sis yuck, how disgusting, oh sick
lekker good, nice, fun, cool, hip
howzit hi, hello, hey, how are you
serviette napkin
babbelaas hangover
lift elevator
flat apartment
robot traffic light
jol party (used as a verb or a noun)

pavement sidewalk
né right/you agree
is it really
just now in a while (between 2 minutes and 24 hours)
now now sooner than "just now"
tekkies sneakers
4 x 4 SUV
braai barbeque

mobile cell phone
mielies corn
shebeen unregistered bar/pub
chips/crisp potato chips
slap chips French fries with vinegar
boot trunk (car)
bonnet hood (car)
sharp cool, okay, goodbye, thank you
paw paw papaya

FAST FACTS

South Africa has reached almost ten years of democracy and amidst criticism, as a country we have achieved so much.

Did you know that:

- South Africa covers an area of 1.2 million km² and is inhabited by approx. 42 million people, more than half the population is women.
- South Africa shares its borders with Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe and is surrounded by the ocean on three sides. The coastline is approx 3.000 km long.
- In accordance with the Constitution of 1996 (Act 108 1996), between 1994 and June 1999, 4 million South Africans gained access to basic water services.
- Swissair in June 1999 became a strategic partner for South African Airways when it bought a 20% share into SAA for R1.4 billion with an option to later purchase another 10%
- South Africa ranks 23rd in telecommunications development and 17th in Internet usage worldwide.
- Since 1999 14,000 telephone lines have been installed and another 2.81 million will be laid over the next five years.
- The agricultural sector contributes 4% to the gross domestic product.
- South African exports to the USA went from R5.2 billion in 1993 to R14.9 billion in 1999 and the trade balance is in South Africa's favor.
- Mauritius is one the biggest importers of South African goods
- South Africa has 21 embassies and Consulates General in Europe and in return Europe is represented through 51 embassies, consulates general and trade missions in South Africa.
- Tourism is the 4th largest industry in South Africa, we have 700 hotels and a little over 2800 bed & breakfasts
- There are 29,500 registered general practitioners and 198,621 nurses in South Africa.
- There are 21 major universities and 15 technikons in South Africa and 360,000 and 200,000 respectively, registered students at these institutions.
- More than R 200,000 million has been made available to the Department of Social Development specifically for poverty alleviation.
- South Africa is signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 1 million houses were built by 2000, R12.5 billion was spent on housing by December 1999 and 1,112,719 subsidies were granted by the same time.
- The land reform program is based on the willing buyer-willing seller principle.

News Highlights from the South African Media

SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES PULL TOGETHER AS NEW YORK COUNTS THE COST

South African companies with operations in the US face the prospect of a recession, but they may well be well positioned for the massive rebuilding that is already under way there. More than 20 South African companies have operations in the US. The bigger ones include Life assurance group Old Mutual, whose US subsidiary United Asset Management (UAM) contributes 22 percent to its bottom line, information technology (IT) group Dimension Data (Didata), and pulp and paper producer SAPPI. Patrick Quarumby, the director of corporate finance at Didata, said: "Although one is loath to use the word opportunity, there will be a huge need to replace networking and communication facilities." Didata's New York offices were two blocks from the World Trade Center. Although no staff were injured during the attacks, they were working from home, he said. Didata's US operations contribute 20% to the group's revenue. Analysts have predicted a recession and there are fears the slowdown in technology spending will accelerate. But David Pfaff, an executive

director at Datatec, the South African IT firm, said the networking infrastructure in the World Trade Center could cost about \$500 million to replace. (Business Report, 0917)

SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS TO U.S. STILL ON THE RISE

Despite gathering storm clouds of recession, South Africa's trade surplus with the US continued to rise with the value of exports to the US to July at \$2.7bn, exceeding imports from the US by \$1bn, according to new commerce department figures. That was a 16% widening of the record \$874m gap posted at the same point last year. This was achieved even as the US trade deficit worldwide was contracting and its economy slowed. South Africa's strong performance, however, remained heavily tied to high prices for platinum groups metals which accounted for more than a third (\$972m) of South Africa's exports to the US in the first seven months. Surging US demand for imports of South African diamonds -- \$318m to July, compared to \$192 the previous year -- could likewise take a knock from shaken US consumer confidence. Gold is not a major South African export to the US, so rising prices in the uncertainty following the World

Trade Center attack might not have much positive effect on the trade balance, as Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin note in Parliament this week. (Business Day, 0921)

GROWTH 2.6%, CUT STILL LIKELY

Growth in South Africa's economy accelerated to 2.3% in the second quarter of 2001, helped by financial sector activity, but analysts said demand was still sluggish enough to allow for further interest rate cuts. A Reuters poll of economists had forecast a seasonally adjusted, annualized rise of 2.2% in the second quarter compared to a 2.0% rise in the first quarter. (The Citizen, 0829)

SOUTH AFRICA RATES BETTER ON ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

South Africa has been ranked 46th out of 123 countries on an economic freedom index, according to the latest Economic Freedom of the Worlds: 2001 Annual Report. South Africa's ranking improved from 63rd in 1999 to 46th (jointly with Latvia, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Arab Emirates) out of 123

countries assessed, according to the report published by Canada's Fraser Institute in conjunction with South Africa's Free Market Foundation. Only Mauritius was rated as having greater economic freedom than South Africa out of all the countries in the African region. The greatest improvements by Mauritius were in freedom of international trade (relaxed of import controls and reduction in tariffs), freedom to use alternative currencies, and the quality of the legal structure and the protection of property rights. The core ingredients of economic freedom are defined as personal choice, the protection of private property and the freedom of exchange.

Internationally the report ranked Hong Kong as the most economically free jurisdiction in the world followed by Singapore, New Zealand, the UK and US. Australia, Ireland, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands round out the top 10. (Business Day, 0713)

ONE RUNG UP ON THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM LADDER

South Africa has moved up one place to 46th in the world on the economic freedom ranking of countries contained in the Economic Freedom of the World: 2001 Annual Report. Maintaining position in the ranking is no mean feat as the general trend is towards greater economic freedom worldwide. On an index prepared for countries for which more comprehensive data was available, South Africa was ranked 30th out of 58 countries, outperforming France, Italy and South Korea. The Annual Report, published by Canada's Fraser Institute in conjunction with South Africa's Free Market Foundation and 49 other independent institutes from around the world, ranks 123 countries on their level of economic freedom. The core ingredients of economic freedom are personal choice, protection of private property and freedom of exchange. (Pretoria News, 0815)

S. AFRICAN EXPORTS \$136M UNDER AGOA IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR

The value of goods exported from South Africa to the US under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) for the six months to June this year totaled \$135.5 million. Bob Godec, the economic counselor at the US Embassy, said yesterday. Speaking at a conference on foreign direct investment, Godec said the legislation, which came into effect last year, had opened up the \$10 trillion US market to African markets, duty and quota free in a range of areas from apparel to wine and sports

footwear. "The duty advantages are enormous. For eligible African countries the duty is zero compared to normal duties of for example 17.5 lines percent on apparel. Today 95% of all US tariff lines are at zero to Africa," he emphasized. Agoa's benefits had only kicked in a few months ago but results so far had been excellent, crating jobs and offering a wide variety of opportunities across sectors. (Business Day, 0905)

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CELLULAR DEAL LIFTS INVESTMENT FLOWS INTO SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign direct investment in South Africa of R10.3bn in the first six months of this year almost surpassed its level for the whole year, according to BusinessMap, the Johannesburg-based investment consultancy. Saudi Arabia and China showed the most interest and investment levels were boosted by the gaining of a third cellular telephone license to Cell-C, a subsidiary of Saudi Oger, after a long regulatory delay. The Cell-C investment accounted for just over half the quarter's investment, supporting our view that the impact of government-leveraged transactions in boosting foreign direct

investment continues to be significant," BusinessMap said. Foreign investment was a 124% rise on the same period last year; average quarterly inflows have risen by 51% to R5.1bn compared with R3.4bn last year. Foreign investment levels peaked in South Africa in 1999 with average quarterly investment at R6.3bn. (Business Day, 0803)

TELKOM TO LIST IN NOVEMBER

The Government's commitment to privatizing parastatals despite opposition from the trade union movement and the South African Communist Party (SACP), was reaffirmed by Public Enterprises Minister Jeff Radebe yesterday. Government plans to privatize state-run companies including energy (Eskom), telecommunications (Telkom), defense (Denel), transport (Transnet, Spoornet, Portnet, Petronet and SAA), forestry (Safcol) and mining (Alexkor). Briefing the media in Parliament yesterday Radebe said Telkom was likely to be listed in November, depending on market conditions. Telkom is expected to be the first to be listed both on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange. Radebe said the legislative amendments on Telkom's listing has been published for public comment. Preparations for the privatization of the other state-run companies are going ahead, with legislative and regulatory measures being drawn up and strategic equity partners being sought. (Sowetan, 0919)

DOWNTURN FORECAST

Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni said on September 27 he expected economic growth of at least 2% in 2001, and he did not believe interest rate adjustments were the best way to stimulate growth. At a business breakfast in Cape Town, Mboweni said South Africa's economic fundamentals remained healthy with the economy likely to outperform the global average this year. "My expectation is that for the year 2001 we should see growth of 2% or more than 2%," he said, adding global growth was likely to come in under 2%. (Citizen, 0928)

NO WINNERS AT RACISM CONFERENCE

There were no outright winners at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism because all countries and regional blocs were forced to compromise. Foreign Affairs Minister and conference president

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma says. The Durban event was dogged by controversy over the Middle East crisis and the refusal by Western countries to apologize for slavery. "Nothing that came out of the conference is not a compromise," said Zuma. "Each country came there with their own positions and they looked so irreconcilably diverse. In the end, nobody really got what they wanted." For the first time, there was international acknowledgement of "anti-Arabism" and Islamophobia throughout the world, Zuma said. This was a victor for Muslim countries who waged a hard-nosed campaign for conference to declare Israel a racist state. "The Palestinians did get specifics in the final declaration but not as far as they wanted. If we look at what we ended with, there were very specific clauses on the Middle East such as the one declaring the right of return of refugees," said Zuma. "The Europeans also didn't get what they wanted. They didn't even want these matters on the agenda and when they did agree that they would be discussed, they wanted it to be generic so that they were not even recognizable. (Sunday Times, 0917)

WINNING RACE WAR

South Africa is winning the war against racism and relations in South Africa are improving, according to ordinary South Africans surveyed by two research organizations. The surveys were conducted as part of the run-up to the UN World Conference Against Racism. Incidents of racism tended to be the exception and not the rule according to some 5,000

respondents, including more than 60% who said they were supported of the African National Congress (ANC). A survey by the South African Institute of Race Relations found that for every South African who thinks race relations have deteriorated in the past few years. There are two who think relations have improved. (The Citizen, 0829)

UN'S LATEST TECHNOLOGY RANKING GIVES SOUTH AFRICA THE THUMBS UP

South Africa is a world-class hub of technological innovation and achievement, ranking 39 out of 162 countries, the United Nations Development Programme revealed this week. The award won by a top South African scientist in London in the same week for her work on HIV vaccines further entrenches South Africa as a world-class player. But if we're to stay ahead of the game and avoid marginalization, Dr. Rob Adam, Director-General of the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, warned at the launch of the UNDP's annual global human development report, we needed to "wake up and smell coffee". Adam said South Africa's relatively high technology achievement index was "pleasing", but added that the fact we were pulled up relative to others with nearby rankings by our per capita consumption of electricity, but down by a low gross tertiary science enrolment ratio "casts doubt on the sustainability of this position". (Sunday

Independent, 0716)

FINAL REPAYMENT MADE ON APARTHEID ERA DEBT

South Africa had made the final repayment on billions of dollars of foreign debt dating back to a moratorium imposed during apartheid improving its credit outlook, the Treasury said yesterday. A final repayment of \$6.885m (R56.885m) on the \$13bn deemed affected by the 1985 "debt standstill" was made by the National Treasury on August 15, it said. "The final settlement of the debt standstill marks the end of an era and the elevation of the South African credit to new heights," it said. Economists said the step could signal improvements to South Africa's credit outlook by rating agencies like Standard & Poor's and Moody's. (The Citizen, 0904)

TUTU TO MOVE TO U.S. TO TEACH THEOLOGY

Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu is to take up residence at Harvard University in the U.S., where he will teach theology. The relations between South Africa and the U.S., comes amid concerns about the former Truth and Reconciliation Commission chairperson's health. Tutu had been battling prostate cancer for some time and was thought to have retired.

The South African Consulate General invites you to submit suggestions and ideas for future issues of South Africa @Work.

We would love to hear about aspects of South Africa that you want to know about.

Please submit suggestions to:

saaw@southafrica-newyork.net

or mail to:

333 East 38th Street
New York, NY 10016
Attention: South Africa @Work

OPERA: NO EASY WALK TO FREEDOM

HIV/AIDS is the number one health threat in South Africa and affects the greatest number of people in the Province of KwaZulu Natal. Responding to this health crisis in her hometown of Groutville, *Albertinah Luthuli, M.D.* (daughter of Nobel Peace Laureate *Albert Luthuli*) has founded the **HIV/AIDS Home-Based Care and Support Program** of the Groutville Memorial Church of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa.

The *Commission for Social Justice* and the *South African Initiative of the Riverside Church* are proud to sponsor a benefit for this important grassroot program—the fully staged premiere performance of *No Easy Walk to Freedom*, an evening-length opera based on the life of South African President *Nelson Mandela*. President Mandela has made the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa the major focus of his recent efforts, challenging the world community to "move from rhetoric to action." Your purchase of tickets at \$25 (\$20 for students and seniors) will help South Africans in KwaZulu-Natal in their fight against HIV/AIDS.

No Easy Walk to Freedom features *Andre Solomon-Glover* as Nelson Mandela and *Diana Solomon-Glover* as Winnie Mandela. Performances are on Friday, October 12, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 14, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive (between 120th and 122nd Streets) New York City. **For information and reservations, please call the box office at (212) 870-6784.**