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RACE RELATIONS POST 9-11: JOHN CONYERS, U.S. CONGRESSMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, WILL VISIT MONTREAL AND MEET WITH LOCAL LEADERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTREAL, April 29, 2002 -- U.S. Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-Michigan), Ranking Member of the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee, has accepted CRARR's invitation to visit Montreal on May 10, 2002, on the eve of the National Police Week and exchange views with community leaders on race relations and civil rights issues since September 11.

As the unofficial Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hon. Conyers, first elected in 1964, is considered to be one of America's most influential Black legislators, who has sponsored legislation on hate crimes, racial profiling, slavery reparation, health care, justice, environment, consumer protection, voting rights, government reforms, domestic violence and foreign policy. He also wrote and led the drive for the *Martin Luther King Holiday Act* of 1983. As the Democrats' leader on the Judiciary Committee, he was instrumental in the adoption of laws on terrorism, domestic security and immigration that were enacted after the September 11 terrorist attacks. He was also vocal on the need to protect racial and religious minorities from hate crimes, racial profiling and other civil rights violations in the post 9/11 climate.

On May 10, Mr. Conyers will meet with racial minority leaders from Montreal and Ottawa in a closed-door session at noon and the press at 2:00 PM to discuss the state of race relations and civil rights in Canada and the U.S., especially where hate crimes and racial profiling are concerned. He will also be the keynote speaker at a dinner jointly held by CRARR and IRERR (the Institute for Research and Education on Race Relations). Mr. Conyers' visit is part of CRARR's ongoing community mobilization and action plan to combat racial discrimination and hate crimes in Montreal and beyond.

The dinner will be held on May 10, 2002, at the Wyndham Hotel, from 5:30 to 10:00 PM. Guests of honor include the Hon. **Denis Coderre**, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration of Canada; His Excellency **Mawoumond Amelete**, Ambassador of Togo; His Excellency **Renaud Bernardin**, Ambassador of Haiti; His Excellency **André Jaquet**, High-Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa; His Excellency **Miguel Maria N'Zau Puna**, Ambassador of Angola; Ms. **Deborah McCarthy**, Consul General of the United States in Montreal and the Hon. **Hedy Fry**, MP from Vancouver and former Secretary of State for Multiculturalism.

The evening will be co-animated by Mr. **David Mitchell**, President of the Association of Law Enforcers of Canada, from Toronto and Ms. **Rachida Azdouz**, coordinator of the Intercultural Intervention Program of the Université de Montréal. Ms. **Dawn Tyler Watson**, a local jazz and blues artist, will perform for the Hon. Conyers, who sponsored a resolution in the House of Representatives to declare jazz a

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national treasure of the United States; Ms. Tyler appears as a courtesy of Biddle's Jazz and Ribs.

Tickets for the dinner are \$125 per person (\$60 tax deductible). A limited number of tickets for community representatives are available at a special rate. Individuals wishing to reserve tickets and contribute to the event through donations and ad purchases can contact the CRARR office at (514) 939-3342.

CRARR is a Montreal-based non-profit agency founded in 1983 with the mandate to promote racial harmony and equality in Canada. Its activities include research, education, advocacy, training and litigation.

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