WE HAVE A DREAM ... OF AN ORGANIZATION FOR BLACK INTERPRETERS.

Judging from the ideas and comments expressed at the 'Minority Interpreting' workshop at the Fifth National Black Deaf Advocates (BDA) Conference (Chicago, 1986), there is no doubt that the time is ripe for an organization of Black interpreters. This mailing is an attempt to gather some information concerning the kind of organization we want.

To start the process, it would be helpful to find out what a large percent of Black interpreters think. Hence, the questionnaire you will find enclosed. Please give the questionnaires to Black interpreters you know. Feel free to make additional copies if you need to. (Black Deaf individuals may fill out the questionnaire, too, if you would like. But make sure, on the questionnaire itself, you indicate that you are Deaf and not an interpreter.) Preferably, all questionnaires will be sent back to me by the end of the year.

After I receive the questionnaires, the next step will be for me to compile all the information and send this information back to respondents. If at all possible, this step will be completed no later than three months prior to the 1987 BDA convention. At this convention, we should be ready to take care of the details of forming our organization (elect officers, draft By-laws, etc.).

Some of the goals and objectives of the Black interpreters organization may include:

* Promoting awareness of minority interpreters and issues affecting them to the general public as well as to other professional and educational organizations involving Deaf people

* Enabling the disproportionately small percent of minority interpreters and signers to support and encourage each other

* Providing American Sign Language (ASL) and Pidgin Sign English (PSE) skills upgrading and cultural information for minority interpreters and signers in a supportive, non-competitive environment

* Networking with BDA in areas of our mutual interests and concerns.

On another piece of paper (or the back of this one), please comment on these goals and objectives. Feel free to also suggest other goals and objectives you may think of.