

Inds. - King, Martin Luther



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

INCORPORATED

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Executive Secretary

April 5, 1968

(Handwritten initials 'H' circled in red)

Southern Christian Leadership Conference
334 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Friends and Colleagues at SCLC:

Today our hearts are bowed low, because a great man is departed from among us. Martin Luther King bore the name of one who in a past age stood up for freedom, because, as he said, "Here I stand. I can do none other." In a speech of prophetic intensity Dr. King Wednesday night in Memphis spoke to his day and age of standing on the mountain top whereon he dedicated his life that men should come at last to the promised land. He had communed there with his God and knew beyond any peradventure what it was he had to do.

"Love does not make all things easy; it makes us choose what is difficult." Many years ago this strong young man chose the difficult path because he loved his people and was grieved at their condition, and because he longed to see this land redeem its noble promise. He was a patriot in the deepest sense of that word, and our history will be proud of him.

Martin Luther King was a man of peace. He believed in the very fibre of his being that the hearts of his compatriots must be touched and moved to action by the ways of non-violence. He paid us all the compliment of expecting that we would respond in practical fashion to redress injustice and inequality. His absolute commitment to peaceful witness was often misunderstood or deliberately distorted. Yet for him non-violence was no tactic, and he never yielded to outside pressure to turn from it. We can only guess what inner travail of spirit he suffered as the early promise of the great 1963 March on Washington turned to stagnation and lack of progress; as the vision of the Great Society faded before the violences of these past years; as war obsessed the national mind; as the hope of the poor was stifled. Like the Master whom he served, Martin Luther King grew impatient at the blindness and hardness of men's hearts, and it is the measure of his inner discipline that he never abandoned his hope or succumbed to the temptations of violence. At the same time, he did not waver the clear and potent witness of his voice, or shrink from those public demonstrations which he deemed necessary to shake the nation's sloth and complacency.

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April 5, 1968
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The American Friends Service Committee, itself committed to non-violence, treasures the contact we have had with Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. We were involved in a journey he took some years ago to India, to seek inspiration in Gandhi's homeland. We have marched and worked with him in the rural areas of the South and in the streets of northern cities. Recently we have conferred with him and with you, his colleagues, as he set his face toward Washington and made his plans to bring the cry of the very poor, of all races, to the ears of those in power. We have seen him grappling within himself, searching how best to bring the urgent plight of those sunk in poverty before his largely unheeding fellow citizens. We have joined wholeheartedly as an organization in active support of his efforts.

The world has honored Martin Luther King with the Nobel Peace Prize. How shall we Americans now pay our tribute to this distinguished son of our nation? Swift action to right the wrongs he made us confront and to remove our shame is the only fitting memorial to him, and the only real comfort we can offer to his wife and children in their grief, and to the men and women who have worked with him through sacrificial and frustrating years. We rededicate ourselves to this task and we shall call on the nation to deploy resources of mind and money on a scale and with a determination equal to the need and to Martin Luther King's hope.

Emerson has reminded us that "here and there a great unselfish soul forgets himself into immortality". Martin Luther King was one such.

But we will not forget.

Colin W. Bell
for the
American Friends Service Committee

Quaker Service National Edition
Summer 1968

MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.

• 1929-1968 •

A LETTER TO THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dear Friends and Colleagues at SCLC:

Today our hearts are bowed low, because a great man is departed from among us. Martin Luther King bore the name of one who in a past age stood up for freedom, because, as he said, "Here I stand, I can do none other." In a speech of prophetic intensity Dr. King Wednesday night in Memphis spoke to his day and age of standing on the mountain top whereon he dedicated his life that men should come at last to the promised land. He had communed there with his God and knew beyond any peradventure what it was he had to do.

"Love does not make all things easy; it makes us choose what is difficult." Many years ago this strong young man chose the difficult path because he loved his people and was grieved at their condition, and because he longed to see his land redeem its noble promise. He was a patriot in the deepest sense of that word, and our history will be proud of him.

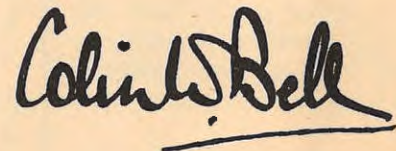
Martin Luther King was a man of peace. He believed in the very fiber of his being that the hearts of his compatriots must be touched and moved to action by the ways of nonviolence. He paid us all the compliment of expecting that we would respond in practical fashion to redress injustice and inequality. His absolute commitment to peaceful witness was often misunderstood or deliberately distorted. Yet for him nonviolence was not tactic, and he never yielded to outside pressure to turn from it. We can only guess what inner travail of spirit he suffered as the early promise of the great 1963 March on Washington turned to stagnation and lack of progress; as the vision of the Great Society faded before the violences of these past years; as war obsessed the national mind; as the hope of the poor was stifled. Like the Master whom he served, Martin Luther King grew impatient at the blindness and hardness of men's hearts, and it is the measure of his inner discipline that he never abandoned his hope or succumbed to the temptations of violence. At the same time he did not mute the clear and potent witness of his voice, or shrink from those public demonstrations which he deemed necessary to shake the nation's sloth and complacency.

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COLIN W. BELL

for the American Friends Service Committee



let us continue his work

WHERE: John Wesley AME Zion Church
1615 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

WHEN: Monday Evening, April 29th, 1968

TIME: 8 p.m.

MAIN SPEAKER: Reverend Ralph Abernathy

TO ATTEND: All are invited.

Come find out more about the
P O O R P E O P L E ' S C A M P A I G N
and
Southern Christian Leadership Conference



Mobilization

In Support
of the
Poor People's Campaign

National Office: 217 West 125th Street, New York, New York 10027
General Phone: (212) 666-9904
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BASIC FACT SHEET

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President, Southern Christian
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Executive Director,
A. Philip Randolph Institute

Deputy
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Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker
Minister Canaan Baptist
Church of Christ

Treasurer:

Mrs. Arthur C. Logan

SPONSORSHIP - Due to the shortness of time, sponsorship is not being sought from particular organizations. Political organizations are asked not to participate as such, although their members are welcome, as are all individuals and groups committed to non-violence, integration and democracy.

DATE - June 19, 1968 (Wednesday)

PLACE - The Mobilization will begin at the Washington Monument and will march to the Lincoln Memorial for the main program.

TIME - There will be a program at the Washington Monument beginning at about 10:30 A.M. The march to the Lincoln Memorial will begin at 1:00 P.M., and the main program at 2:30 P.M.

GOALS - The specific goals are listed in the official "CALL" to the Mobilization. The day is planned as a massive witness in support of the goals of the Poor People's Campaign.

TRANSPORTATION - Buses, trains, planes, cars and other means of getting to Washington should be arranged by individuals and groups participating. Specific and helpful information can be obtained from this office: 666-9930.

FOOD - Since the program will continue through the lunch hour, it is suggested that each participant bring lunch for himself and an extra lunch to contribute. Please do not bring bottles. Bring thermos flasks for liquids.

BUS CAPTAINS - There must be a Captain assigned to each train, plane or bus. His name, address and phone number should be submitted to the Mobilization office as soon as known, so that he can be sent information and a complete manual.

NEW YORK OFFICE - Wyatt Tee Walker is Director of the New York office, located at 144 West 125th Street, New York, New York, 10027. Telephone # AC 2-2731.

JUNE 19