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Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*

Ralph Abernathy, *Treasurer*

Andrew J. Young, *Executive Director*

December 6, 1967

Mr. Collin Bell, Executive Director
American Friends Service Committee
160 North 15th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DEC 8 1966

Dear Mr. Bell:

I would like to write to you in regard to a major project which will be in the center of our activities in the coming months. Last week our staff met at the Penn Community Center, Frogmore, South Carolina for a retreat during which we held intensive discussions and workshops on the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as well as the profound challenges which confront us and our Nation today.

At the end, it was decided that it was our moral responsibility to take the demands of the nation's poor and disinherited to Washington, D. C. next Spring in a demonstration to secure at least jobs or income for all.

Our plan is to mobilize the poor from the rural areas of the South as well as the ghettos of the North, and together with the poor from the Appalachian region, and other deprived groups; go to Washington in a determined, nonviolent, peaceful protest until the President and Congress take some action to address these grievances. This project will strain our already limited resources to the utmost. Yet, we feel we can do no less. I am convinced in advance that you share our feelings of concern and determination to obtain justice for the least of us in this great country.

It is with deep gratitude that I recall the devotion, cooperation and help accorded to us in the past by the American Friends Service Committee in many of the areas we have worked. I would like at this time to again appeal for your understanding, cooperation and assistance. Specifically, I would like to ask if you could assign some of your highly qualified, skilled staff to work with us on this project for a period of perhaps six months. We need a senior and experienced person to serve

Mr. Collin Bell

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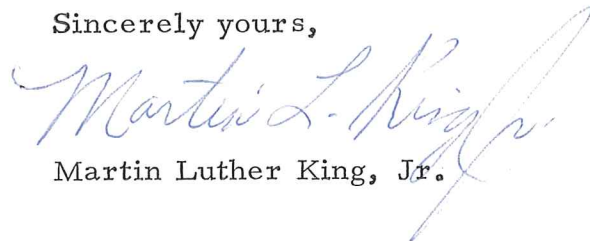
as Assistant Coordinator for the overall national program (workshops in nonviolence, program goals, logistics, etc.), as well as secretarial help and staff to work with us on college campuses.

If at all possible, I would like to suggest a meeting as early as feasible. Three members of my staff will be available for a meeting at the time and place designated. These persons are: Rev. Andrew J. Young who is now SCLC's Executive Vice-President; Dr. William A. Rutherford, SCLC's Executive Director; and Rev. Bernard Lafayette, Program Coordinator.

I do hope you will give this matter your urgent attention and I am attaching for your information a copy of a statement we made to the press on Monday, publicly announcing this project.

Kindest personal greetings.

Sincerely yours,



Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK/tr

Enclosures as indicated

CC to: Mr. Kale Williams
Miss Barbara Moffet
Rev. Bernard Lafayette
Dr. William A. Rutherford
Rev. Andrew J. Young