November 26, 1963

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

As leaders of the principal organizations concerned with the grave problems of race relations facing the nation in this time of crisis, through the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership, we desire to offer our assistance in every way that you may find useful. We are aware of the huge burden that has suddenly been cast upon you, and seek to be of greatest possible assistance in this time of change.

Numerous questions in the area of our concern will be presented to you in the months to come, and we seek to serve the country in their resolution. Some of these issues, however, have a particular urgency calling for early decision.

For example, it may be useful in the very near future to discuss questions of pending civil rights legislation. Related to this legislation, and also of high interest to the country, is the position of the United States on the pending sit-in cases now before the Supreme Court, in which the Solicitor General has been ordered to file a brief setting forth the views of the United States within approximately the next three weeks. In addition, should you deem it useful to call upon us at this time with respect to identifying key roles in connection with civil rights tasks which must be done, we stand ready to furnish such information as you require.
On these and other matters, we are eager to meet at your earliest convenience and at such time or times as you may suggest. Please do not hesitate to call upon any or all of us for any or all purposes that you believe will serve the nation.

Sincerely,

Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Whitney M. Young, Jr.
Executive Director
National Urban League

Dorothy Height, President
National Council of Negro Women

Jack Greenberg
Director-Counsel
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

James Farmer, National Director
Congress of Racial Equality

Martin Luther King, Jr., President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

James Foreman, Executive Secretary
Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee