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Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*

Ralph Abernathy, *Treasurer*

Andrew J. Young, *Executive Director*

October 1, 1965

Dear SCOPE Volunteer,

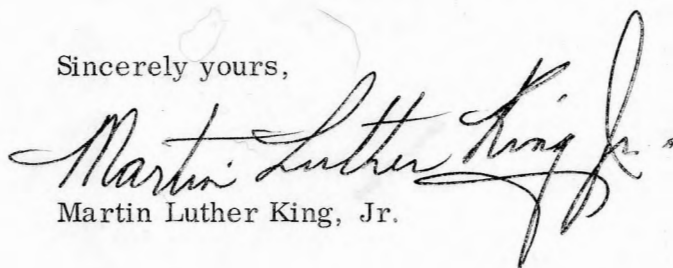
It is a rare privilege in life to participate in the fulfillment of an idea whose time has come. Your involvement with the SCOPE Project this summer was such a privilege. For, whether you realize it or not, you were a part of a history-making enterprise which has gripped us all in its infinite garment of destiny. We of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference were indeed fortunate to have had you as one of our volunteers. We will be forever grateful to you for the sacrifices which you made in coming down and for the dedication and devotion to the cause of human rights and dignity which you shared with so many of "the least of these, my brethren", in the course of the summer.

It will be some time before we can adequately assess the results of this summer. The delay in passage of the Voting Rights Bill meant that the actual addition of voters was not what it might have been, but you broke much new ground and laid a solid foundation upon which we will continue to build for years to come. This foundation may soon become the cornerstone of our democracy, for the unregistered Negro voters in the South may well determine whether our Congress is one which progressively and creatively faces the future or whether it becomes like some of the do-nothing Congresses of the past. Our world demands the very best that this country can give if the elements of people around the world are to share in the abundant life.

I have enclosed a brief questionnaire in which I would appreciate your very frank and candid evaluation of your work this summer. We entered this project under great strain and following directly on the heels of the Selma campaign, so we know that we made many mistakes. However, we must be aware of these mistakes that they might be corrected in future efforts and that we might continue to grow to meet the challenge which is upon us.

Again, let me extend my warmest and most heartfelt congratulations for a job well done.

Sincerely yours,



Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK, Jr. :df
Enclosures