June 17, 1963

Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Burke:

I thought you might be interested in the attached.

Cordially,

Theodore E. Brown
Director

TEB:kw
Enclosure
June 14, 1963

Attorney General Robert Kennedy
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

No one can read the newspapers, listen to the radio, or witness television news accounts of police brutality in Jackson, Mississippi without responding emotionally. This is especially true of all American Negroes. While there is imminent danger of a violent reaction from the Negro community in Jackson, primarily due to having taken more than they can stand, there are even more dangerous national overtones.

The inhuman treatment of Negro and sympathetic white citizens by Jackson police and the recent reports of brutal treatment in Winona, Mississippi coming on the heels of the high-pressure water hoses and dogs in Birmingham is creating increasing anger in Negroes in every section of the country. This anger could develop into violence.

The Jackson police have demonstrated to the whole world that their only method of dealing with the situation is to brutalize American Negro citizens. Therefore, it seems to me that rather than wait until more heads and bodies are broken, property damaged, and, perhaps, people killed, the Federal presence in terms of marshals and/or troops should be dispensed to Jackson.
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Negro citizens all throughout the country and especially those in Jackson must be assured that the vicious police tactics will not be tolerated. Let's not wait until more deaths have resulted before recognizing that law and order have broken down in Jackson and that the Federal presence is necessary now.

The sober as well as the dramatic technique must be used if there is a possibility that it can contribute to a quick and equitable solution of an increasingly critical problem.

Respectfully yours,

Theodore E. Brown
Director

TEB:kw

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- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People/National Council of Negro Women
- National Medical Association/National Newspaper Publishers Association/National Urban League
- Negro American Labor Council/Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc./Phelps-Stokes Fund
- Southern Christian Leadership Conference/Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee/Trade Union Leadership Council
- United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO/Western Christian Leadership Conference