Dear Carl and Ann Braden,

I just received the SGEF memo appealing for food and clothing for Mississippi. I want to express my appreciation of the attention which you gave the whole matter. We on our end certainly did not do a good job in supplying you with sufficient information, but nevertheless you were able to put out a very strong appeal and with great promptness.

To talk of virtual starvation in the Delta is not an overstatement. I had a chance to stop and talk to a number of sharecropper and day-laborer families who had no clothes, no money, and no food. Diets consisted of beans bought on credit from local grocers. In most counties only those on welfare (this excludes all sharecroppers and day-workers) are eligible for commodities. Hopefully, we will reach a percentage of these families through our distribution but I doubt if we would ever become in a position, administratively, to adequately alleviate the desperate need of so many of the Negro families in the Delta.

Freedom,

Mendy Sampson