

# Urge Ike to tour Dixie terror spots

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ATLANTA — The 'Southern Negro Leaders' Conference on Transportation and Non-Violent

Integration Friday called upon President Eisenhower to visit and take note of the "state of terror" prevailing in the South. Mr. Eisenhower was also asked to use the weight of his office to bring colored Americans the "rights guaranteed every American citizen by the U.S. Constitution."

The conference of leaders issued a statement at the end of its two-day meeting here in which it labeled Civil Rights, "the most crucial issue of our (American) culture," and pledged to "stand firm" in its non-violent revolt against racial segregation.

The conference was called by the Rev. Martin L. King Jr., leader of the Montgomery bus boycott, and was attended by approximately 60 other civil rights leaders from nine southern states comprising 29 communities.

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**THE GROUP** sent letters also to Vice President Nixon, Attorney General Herbert Brownell and two outstanding religious leaders whom they asked for moral support in their "struggle for freedom in the South."

The letter to Mr. Nixon stated that, "all persons of goodwill, were impressed with your deep concern for the suffering of the Hungarian people which expressed itself in your trip to Austria."

It then urged the Vice President to "make such a fact-finding trip to troubled areas of the South" to observe the violence here.

"If you were to make the trip to explore the facts, and to talk with victims of racial oppression you could recommend to the President and the American people a course of action that might be as effective as your

(Continued on Page 2)

# Urge Ike to visit

(Continued from Page 1)

efforts on behalf of Hungarian refugees," the letter stated.

**THE LETTER** to Mr. Brownell cited an earlier statement by the Attorney General that bus segregation is "a crime against the U.S." and asked a hearing with him "at the earliest possible date" to determine "the extent to which we can rely upon the Federal Government to carry out these plans to have the law complied with."

To Dr. J. H. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention, and Dr. D. Ward Nichols, A.M.E. Bishop, the Conference sent identical letters asking them to encourage "every church in the nation" to "beseech almighty God to restore law and order to our land."

The 1,500-word statement, drawn up by the leaders, said they "are convinced that the great majority of white southerners are prepared to accept and abide by the Supreme law of the land."

**BUT, THE** statement continued, "a small, but determined minority, resorts to threats, bodily assaults, cross-burnings, bombings, shooting and open defiance of the law in an attempt to force us to retract . . .

"But we cannot in clear conscience turn back. We have no moral choice but to continue the struggle, not for ourselves alone, but for all America.

"We have the God-given duty to help save ourselves and our white brothers from tragic self-destruction in the quagmire of racial hate.

"We must continue to stand firm for our right to be first-class citizens. Even in the face of death, we have no other choice," it stated.

**THE CONFERENCE** called upon colored citizens to:

1. Assert their human dignity;
2. Seek justice and reject all injustice;
3. Refuse further cooperation with the evil element which invites them to collude against themselves in return for bits of patronage;
4. Reject segregation, no matter how great the obstacles and suffering;
5. Accept Christian love in full knowledge of its power to defy evil; and
6. Remember that non-violence is not a symbol of or cowardliness, but as Jesus demonstrated, non-violent resistance transforms weakness into strength and breeds courage in face of danger.

**THE CONFERENCE** statement further asked all white southern Christians to "realize

that the treatment of colored people is a basic spiritual problem" and to work "to see that all persons, regardless of color or creed, who seek the saving grace of Christ are accepted as equals in their churches."

It further asked them to encourage schools and colleges controlled by the church to set an example of brotherhood.

Finally, the statement asked all white southerners to "realize that the major choice may no longer be segregation or integration, but anarchy or law."

**DR. KING** said that the organization of leaders was to be a continuing group, and that they had elected him as chairman. The next meeting of the leaders will be at New Orleans. No time has been set for the meeting.

He said he thought the statement issued by the first meeting "will serve to coordinate the leadership of colored southerners and give the race a new determination to struggle for freedom."

The 27-year-old Montgomery minister said he also felt that it would "arouse the good white people to get behind the colored man and serve as his ally in his struggle."

Absent during the first day of the conference to attend the problems growing out of six bombings in his city, Dr. King called the bombings and other accompanying violence "tragic and unfortunate."

"But," he added, "I believe God can bring good out of evil. I still have faith in the South. I believe that God has something good for this section of the country."

**THE REV. C. K. STEELE**, leader of the integration movement in Tallahassee, Fla., expressed the hope that the statement (given by the conference) will move some of the good white people who have been silent to speak out on the matter.

Other leaders at the conference included:

Pastors T. J. Jemison, Mt. Zion Baptist, Baton Rouge, La.; F. L. Shuttlesworth, Birmingham; Frank Gordon, Shiloh Presbyterian, Knoxville; S. A. Baker, Tabernacle Baptist, Knoxville; Kelly Smith, First Baptist, Nashville; W. T. Crutcher, Mt. Olive Baptist, Knoxville; Owen D. Pelt, Shiloh Baptist, Chicago; R. E. James, Mt. Zion Baptist, Knoxville and J. L. Ware, Trinity Baptist, Birmingham;

Also present were Mrs. S. A. Baker, Knoxville; J. Arthur Brown, NAACP, Charleston, S.C.; Robert D. Robertson, NAACP, Norfolk; John Hall, United Packinghouse Workers, CIO, Atlanta; Charles Hayes, United Packinghouse Workers, CIO, Chicago; Russell R. Lasley, International vice president

of United Packinghouse Workers, AFL-CIO;

Wilson McLaughlin, Atlanta; the Rev. Avery Alexander New Orleans; Whitney Young, dean, Atlanta University, School of Social Work; Gus Curtis, Belzoni, Miss.; the Rev. Henry C. Buntton, Memphis; Edward P. Smith, NAACP, Jackson, Miss.; and the Revs. Davis A. Dennis of New Orleans, and Julian Smith of Atlanta.

**HISTORY CALENDAR**  
**CHICAGO (ANP)** — A history pictorial calendar depicting 5,000 years of events in the lives of colored people was issued on Jan. 16, by its publisher, The House of Knowledge, in Chicago.