



At the Center for Urban Affairs, Michigan State University, where he gave the third annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture, Rev. Andrew Young (left) confers with Mrs. King and Dr. Robert L. Green, who directs that University program and is also a Board member for the King Center. Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, Chairman of the King Center's Trustees, gave the first lecture in the Michigan State series, and Mrs. King the second.

Library Documentation Project

This project was established in 1968 as the first component of the Center. It is the depository for the papers, volumes, tapes, photographs and other documents of the post-1954 civil rights movement, with the papers of Dr. King as the central focus.

The archival collection already includes both personal and organizational documents from many sources in the movement.

This component of the Center also is engaged in an Oral History Project, to record the recollections and experiences of people in the movement, beginning with members of the King family and persons close to Dr. King. Since much of the history of the movement has not been put in writing, this project will be a valued addition to existing materials.

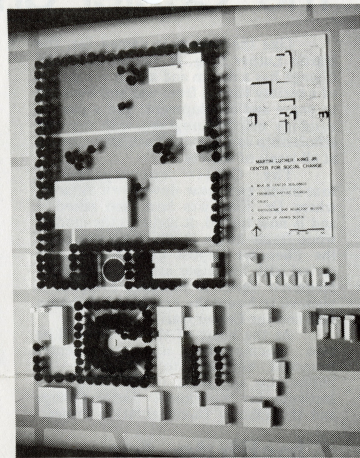
The Martin Luther King, Jr.
Center for Social Change
P.O. Box 92326
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

The Reading Room at our Library now has a collection of 4,000 volumes on the civil rights movement, Dr. King, and the black experience in Africa and America. Clippings, newspapers and magazines are also accessible. A special service of the Reading Room is the weekly story hour for children six to nine years old, with emphasis on the experiences and contributions of black people. ■

The photograph on this page shows the model for the entire Center. Headquarters of the Center itself, with its Institute for Nonviolent Social Change and the Library Documentation Project, will be housed in a building complex with the Freedom Exhibition Hall. The Hall will offer films, slides, tapes, photographs and a variety of documentary displays on the movement. Nearby will be Dr. King's restored birthplace, his church, the permanent entombment, and the Memorial Park. A dream and a plan are taking shape — a lasting, living memorial and a program with a legacy: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change.

Memorial Park

One part of the Center's mission is to serve the surrounding community. To this end, two square blocks — across the street from Ebenezer Church, the Freedom Hall and the entombment — have been set aside for the Memorial Park. A school and the Martin Luther King, Sr. Nursing Home will remain on this site, and the rest of the land will be developed into the park serving the public. It is hoped that the development of this park, together with the other Center components, will mark the beginning of the rehabilitation and construction of a model urban neighborhood. ■

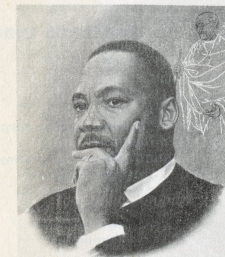


It took Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr. 20 minutes Thursday afternoon to do for Ravenswood High School what 100 teachers and administrators have been trying to do for a year. The wife of the slain civil rights leader sang "We Shall Overcome" in a clear, sweet voice. A thousand students and teachers, black and white, jammed into the gymnasium, joined hands and joined in, swaying back and forth. School officials said it was the most impressive outpouring of togetherness yet experienced at the newly desegregated East Palo Alto school, where togetherness is a prime objective.... There are 600 blacks and 554 whites at the school, which was 94 per cent black before a voluntary desegregation program went into effect.

— Palo Alto (Calif.) Times
Feb. 25, 1972

Newsletter

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change



Volume 1

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Number 1

Mrs. King, Belafonte Visit 2,000 Prisoners



Mrs. King speaks at Rikers Island Prison, New York

Millions of Americans have come to see that the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is most appropriately honored by working for the realization of his dream.

January 15th — his birthday anniversary — has thus become a unique day, because people not only celebrate it as a holiday, but they also engage in many activities to continue the cause of nonviolent social change.

This year the momentum for the holiday grew. Some of the highlights during the weekend of January 15th were:

* On January 14th, Mrs. King and Harry Belafonte, Vice President of the King Center, went to Rikers Island Prison in New York City, where he gave two performances and she spoke to 2,000 inmates. Mrs. King reminded them of her husband's concern for prisoners and urged them to try to make use of their time in prison, as Dr. King did during the many jailings of his civil rights career.

* On January 15th, a Commemorative Service was held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. The service was sponsored by the Church, the Center, and SCLC. Congressman Walter Fauntroy, Chairman of the Center's Board of Directors, delivered the main address. Others on the program included Yolanda King and Martin Luther King III.

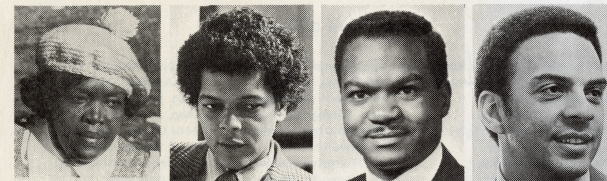
* A special showing of the motion picture "KING: A Filmed Record... Montgomery to Memphis" was held at Philharmonic Hall in the Lincoln Center, New York City, on January 16th. Sponsors were the Center, Local 1199 Drug & Hospital Union, and District 65, National Council of Distributive Workers. Prior to the film, a reception for United Nations representatives from 35 countries was held, with Mrs. Julie Belafonte as hostess.

(continued on page 2)

Center Trustees Meet in Atlanta

The third annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change is being held April 19 in Atlanta. The theme for the business session and a night-time mass rally is "Moving Toward the Dream: The Explosion of Independent Black Politics."

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Center, said in announcing the theme: "A crucial part of my husband's dream was that black people organize their political power and use its great potential creatively and independently for genuine social change for all Americans. In this critical election year, we are seeing the explosion of exactly this kind of political power."



Mrs. Sanders

Mr. Bond

Rev. Fauntroy

Rev. Young

Speakers at the mass meeting at Ebenezer Baptist Church include three young leaders who exemplify the rise of black political power — Center Trustees Julian Bond, Walter Fauntroy, and Andrew Young — and Mrs. Beulah Sanders, President of the National Welfare Rights Organization. Mr. Bond is a Georgia State Representative and serves as Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Center's Library Documentation Project. Rev. Fauntroy, Chairman of the Center's Board of Directors, is Delegate to the Congress from Washington, D.C. Rev. Young, a candidate for Congress, is Chairman of Atlanta's Community Relations Commission and Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Center's Institute for Nonviolent Social Change.

(continued on page 2)

Center Renamed

The name Martin Luther King, Jr. is synonymous with the concept of social change through militant nonviolent action.

The best way to preserve and strengthen that concept — and thereby to honor Dr. King — is to practice it.

To reflect this critical point about the legacy of Dr. King, the Board of Directors on March 1 changed the name of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change.

"We can not and will not permit the Center to be a mere memorial," Mrs. King explained. "The Center must be doing what my husband was about. The Center will do research, yes — but research that can be applied directly to the development of action programs on the issues of the day. The Center will be the depository of historic documents — but it must also be history-making, in pursuit of the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr. The Center must relate to other movement organizations, to community groups and educational institutions, but it must also be a movement organization itself.

"My husband was a man with a philosophy and a program. Our Center must lead in preserving that philosophy with a program — a program that aggressively challenges the injustices and violence he challenged." ■

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change

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Mrs. King, Belafonte Visit Prisoners (continued from page 1)

* Some groups decided to help the movement with financial contributions. Church's Fried Chicken in several cities gave the Center a total of \$3,700 from their January 15th sales. Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority announced as a 1972 project a drive to raise \$20,000 to help restore Dr. King's birthplace. The contribution will be presented to Mrs. King by Mrs. Carey B. Preston, Executive Secretary, and Mrs. Mattelia B. Grays, Supreme Basilew, at the sorority's annual convention in Denver this August.

* The First Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemorative Concert was given in Atlanta for the Center's benefit. Featured appearances included the Jackson Five, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Moms Mabley and Congressman Ronald Dellums.

* Also in Atlanta, free showings of the King film were held for public school students.

* Organizations and communities across the nation observed the holiday in many other ways, including such active programs as voter registration and community action.

Meanwhile, the movement to make each January 15th a national, legal holiday gained strength. A growing number of unions have the day off in their contracts. The holiday is officially recognized by many states, cities, and school systems. ■

Trustees Meet in Atlanta (continued from page 1)

In a special ceremony at the mass meeting, Mrs. King is scheduled to present a print of the documentary "KING: A Filmed Record... Montgomery to Memphis" to the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO), represented by Manuel Chavez. He is the leader of the farm workers' movement in Florida and the brother of Cesar Chavez, national head of the union.

Music for the public rally is being provided by the Atlanta University Gospel Ensemble and Miss Liz Spraggins, vocalist.

The annual Trustees meeting opens with a luncheon, followed by a business session with Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, Chairman, presiding. The agenda includes the President's annual report by Mrs. King and discussions on programs, strategy and planning for the Center.

For the first time, the Trustees are to see a site plan for the entire Center, encompassing the Center buildings, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Dr. King's entombment and birthplace, and the Memorial Park. The plan was prepared by Richard Stauffer and Richard Dober, architectural and planning consultants to the Center. ■



Cleveland Robinson (second from left) presents Mrs. King with a \$5,000 contribution to the Center from the National Council of Distributive Workers. Mr. Robinson, President of the union, is joined by aide Ralph Worrell (left) and Dr. Julius Scott, Jr., Executive Director of the Center.

The Center and its Programs

Like the man it is named for, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change has a dream and a plan — a dream of a society turned from war and injustice to peace and development; and a plan to combine activist programs with relevant scholarship as a means of achieving justice at all levels of society.

The Center encompasses a four-block area near downtown Atlanta, where Dr. King was born and raised — and is now buried. It includes the modest wood-frame house in which he was born, the Ebenezer Baptist Church where he served with his father as Co-Pastor, and a Memorial Park. A building complex is planned to house the Freedom Exhibition Hall and the Center staff.

At the heart of the Center will be two permanent, dynamic Center programs designed to perpetuate the philosophy and work of Dr. King: The Institute for Nonviolent Social Change and the Library Documentation Project.

Institute for Nonviolent Social Change

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Center, recently said: "My husband believed that violence is the greatest threat to mankind — the violence of racism, of poverty, of war. He also believed that nonviolence raised to level of militant action is man's last hope for a world of peace with justice."

A Center-sponsored conference on "Nonviolence in the 70's" last summer marked the beginning of the Institute for Nonviolent Social Change as the key programmatic arm of the Center. Under the leadership of Andrew Young, Chairman of the Advisory Council to the Institute, the conference brought together activists, scholars and public leaders to discuss long-range planning and strategy for the nonviolent movement.

In recent months the Institute staff, coordinated by Thomas Porter, has been developing and planning various projects, including the following:

Center for Economic Action

This project draws upon the experience of the civil rights movement in economic forms of protest and action, such as the economic-withdrawal strategy that cracked the citadel of segregation, Birmingham, in the landmark 1963 movement.

The Center for Economic Action is working to develop a national network for united support actions. In a boycott situation, for example, the network would be designed to help churches, unions, movement organizations, citizens' groups, and individuals consolidate their power nationally.

Mrs. King, Rev. Young and staff members have already conferred with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO), under the

leadership of Cesar Chavez, on the possibilities of helping to coordinate economic actions for the farm workers movement, and continued support by the King Center for that movement in California and Florida.

The economic project would also provide strategic information and analysis of economic issues and institutions, and it would train personnel in such areas as negotiation and organizing for economic action.

Minorities and Government

The struggle for the right to vote necessarily must be followed up with organizing and using the power of the ballot. Since one means of nonviolent social change is the political process, the Institute, though nonpartisan, is deeply involved in the pursuit of representative government, and particularly in developing political power for minorities. Thus, none of the Center's programs is more important than its work in voter registration, political education, and special services to insure democratic elections and voter turnout.

Violence in the Society

The Institute has begun to provide a unique and much-needed service to the nation: the study of violence in social institutions so that this growing problem can be effectively dealt with. The Institute has already begun this project by examining violence in the schools, with the assistance of Dr. Robert L. Green, Director of the Center for Urban Affairs at Michigan State University and a King Center board member. In cooperation with SCLC, we have also been involved in a study of violence in the Atlanta public schools.

The Institute is seeking concrete approaches to the problem of violence in American factories — a problem whose severity and extent are not widely known. The Institute intends to provide labor and management with information and personnel skilled in the techniques of nonviolence and reconciliation.

Prison Reform

One of the most urgently needed changes in America is prison reform — reform of a system which utterly degrades and dehumanizes its captives,



Mrs. King recently went to support Philadelphia hospital workers. Since 1968 she has been Honorary Chairman of organizing drive by National Union of Hospital & Nursing Home Employees.

and fails to offer them any preparation for a meaningful life upon their release. The Institute has been addressing itself to this problem in visits to prison by Mrs. King and other representatives, showing the film "KING: A Filmed Record... Montgomery to Memphis" in prisons, and projecting serious study to define prison reform and find ways to bring it about.

Publications

The Institute is developing a wide range of publications, in cooperation with the Center's Library Documentation Project. Now available, for example, are a booklet of major speeches at our 1971 conference on "Nonviolence in the 70's," and a compilation of five of Dr. King's most important speeches.

Regional Centers, King Clubs, and King Fellowships

The Institute is seeking working relationships with various universities and groups across the country, such as it already has with the Center for Urban Affairs at Michigan State University and the Washington Center of the Antioch Graduate School of Education. This kind of program can help educate young people on both the needs for social change and the ways to achieve it.

A related project is to organize Martin Luther King Clubs to involve students in the struggle for human rights.

The Institute also seeks the creation of a graduate-degree program, hopefully at a black institution, with Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowships for students who will combine scholarship and practical experience in some major field of social change. ■

Contributions

I wish to contribute to the work of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change.

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The Center Newsletter — Randolph T. Blackwell, Editor