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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890

CABLE ADDRESS: NACAPEOPLE, N. Y.

Official Organ: The Crisis



January 16, 1952

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Clarence Mitchell
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Earle W. Fisher
Research Asst., Washington Bureau
Walter P. Offutt, Jr. Church Secretary
James W. Ivey
Editor, The Crisis

129

Dear Youth Leader:

Mrs. Harriet Moore, widow of bomb-slaying victim Harry T. Moore, died in a Sanford, Florida hospital, Thursday, January 3 from injuries which she received during the malicious and premeditated Christmas night bombing of their home at Mims, Florida.

Arthur B. Spingarn, president of the Association and Dr. Louis T. Wright, Chairman of the Board, called upon President Truman "to invoke all the powers of the Federal Government to the end that Harry T. Moore may vindicate in death those principles and practices he sought in life."

In a strongly worded letter to the President, the NAACP officers reviewed the events leading to the assassination of the Florida leader of the Association, who had crusaded for civil rights, for expansion of the Negro vote and for prosecution of Sheriff Willis McCall of Lake County for the slaying of Samuel Shepherd.

Mr. Moore, the letter continues, "believed in the American Declaration of Inder pendence which declares all men are created equal. He believed in the Constitution of the United States which declares for equality before the law and against inequalities based upon race, color or previous condition of servitude. He believed especially in that part of the Constitution which provides that no man may be deprived of life, liberty, or property except by the due process of law."

The perpetrators of this murder the NAACP officers charged, "is the assassin of the democratic ideal. No labor union is secure, no religious body has an asylum, no racial group is safe, no person who hates prejudice and bigotry and seeks to wipe it out by lawful means is safe from intimidation and death."

More than two thousand persons, both white and colored, gathered at a memorial service for the Moore's which was held Sunday, January 6, at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in New York City. Hundreds of persons had to be turned away because of crowded seating facilities. A collection from this group netted \$2.200 to the NAACP in furtherance of its work in the Moore case.

Executive Secretary Walter White said recently that the deluge of sympathetic letters, telephone calls and telegrams is the greatest within recollection ever received by the Association.

A conference has be called for January 20, 1952 in cksonville, Florida of all southern branches of the Association. The purpose of this conference will be to plan an extensive civil rights campaign and to express renewed vigor and determination to continue the fight for complete integration of all American citizens without regards to such factors as race, creed or color.

A civil rights conference has been scheduled for Washington, D. C., February 17-18, 1952. Some five hundred accredited representatives of national, church, civic, labor, fraternal, minority group andprofessional organizations are expected to attend the civil rights assembly on Call of the NAACP. The main objective of this gathering is revision of Senate rules making it easier to break filibuster, which thus far have stymied all federal civil rights legislation.

Another motion to admit Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP and Jack Greenberg, assistant special counsel, as attorneys for Walter Lee Irvin, surviving defendant in the Groveland case will be made in Tavares, Florida, Jauary 14, as preliminary motions in the case get underway. Circuit Judge T. J. Futch barred them previously on the grounds that they stirred up racial trouble in the community.

HERE IS WHAT YOUR YOUTH COUNCIL CAN DO:

- 1. Contact church youth groups in your community immediately and plan jointly sponsored services to be held Sunday, January 27th.
- 2. After the services are over solicit contributions for the rebuilding of the Moore home and to aid the Association in its fight to bring to justice the person or persons responsible for this atrocious and dastardly crime which has aroused and shocked the conscience of all freedom loving Americans.
- 3. Send letters of protest to President Truman and Atty. General J. Howard McGrath urging that all of the powers of the Federal Government be invoked in the apprehension and punishment of the perpetrators of this visious and brutal murder.

Act Now! Time is of utmost importance. Send your contributions to the National Office today.

NAACP
20 W. 40th St.
New York City

Enclosed find \$ as a contribution from the Youth Council to the family of Harry T. Moore, Florida State Coordinator, and to aid the Association in this fight against lawlessness and intimidation. Please convey the following message to the family of Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Moore.

President or Secretary

HLW:cer Address

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Dear Friend:

The Youth Department of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in cooperation with our parent body, wishes to elicit the aid and cooperation of your organization in raising funds for rebuilding the home of Florida bombing victim, Harry T. Moore and his wife Harriet, and to aid the Association in its fight against rising lawlessness and intimidation of minority group members, particularly in the state of Florida.

This is what your organization can do to vindicate the death of Harry and Harriet Moore:

- l. Send a contribution to the National Office to aid in building a new home for the Moore family, which consists of two daughters and Mr. Moore's mother.
- 2. Send a letter to President Truman and to Atty. General J. Howard McGrath.
- 3. Urge your local affiliates to send letters and telegrams to the President, the Attorney General and to Fuller Warren, Governor of the state of Florida.

Attached herewith is a data sheet which will give you pertinent factual information relating to the circumstances surrounding the Christmas night bomb-slaying of Harry T. Moore and the critical injuring of his wife.

Mrs. Moore succumbed on Thursday, January 3 to injuries which she received during the explosion which killed her husband and wrecked her home.

If there is any additional information which your organization may desire please do not hesitate to notify us.

Sincerely yours,

HLW:cer attachment Herbert L. Wright Youth Secretary