two of our homes and six [four] of our churches have been bombed. It is tragic and terrible for men to bomb the homes of other men, but to bomb the house of God is even more tragic and terrible. When men sink this low they have fallen to a level of tragic barbarity devoid of any moral sensitivity.

II As far as I can see we are suffering today because we have committed three crimes.

III Now why we have to suffer like this I do not know. But I am sure that it has some purpose. It may be that we are called upon to be God's suffering servants through whom he is working his redemptive plan.

IV Let us not become bitter as a result of this situation. Let us continue to love.

V Let us take a new stand on non-violence. How are we to meet violence.

VI We must keep standing up.

ADd. MLKP-MBU: Box 81.

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4. Rosa Jordan was shot on 28 December as she rode a Montgomery city bus.

5. According to news reports King elaborated on this point, noting that Montgomery blacks were "apparently guilty of three crimes: first, being born a Negro; secondly, merely desiring to have human dignity; and third, humbly following what is the law of the land" (Cole, "King Collapses in Prayer During Negro Mass Meeting").

6. King reportedly added: "Stand firm on love and peace. . . . [Of] white men willing to take destructive measures in their hands, harm them not because they already stand before God and the world reeking with the stench of Negro blood" (Cole, "King Collapses").
Mr. Alfred Hassler, Editor  
Fellowship  
21 Audubon Avenue  
New York 32, New York

18 Jan 1957

Dear Mr. Hassler:

Thanks for your very kind letter of January 3. Absence from the city and the accumulation of a flood of mail have delayed my reply.

Ordinarily, I would be more than happy to comply with your request. I can assure you that the whole Montgomery Improvement Association is deeply indebted to Glenn Smiley for his vital contributions to our protest movement. Moreover, I am personally grateful to Glenn for the real help that he has given me. His contribution in our overall struggle has been of inestimable value. However, there are some difficulties which I confront in making any public statement concerning the work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in our struggle. As you know, many individuals and organizations have been very helpful in our struggle. Many have worked directly with us here in Montgomery and others have worked indirectly in organizations over the nation. Two or three of these organizations have already made requests similar to yours. At that time I didn't feel that it would be wise for me to make any public statement since so many organizations were coming to our aid. Now I am sure that you can see the problem which I am confronting. If I release any statement to the FOR concerning the helpfulness of Glenn Smiley, persons of organizations which made similar requests will naturally accept it as an affront as well as a sign of ingratitude. I might say that some of the groups that have already made requests are pacifist groups which means that some of their members would be receiving FOR literature. It would be almost impossible to keep such a statement from getting into the hands of persons who have made such requests. In other words, if we do it for one we will be faced with the problem of having to do it for all. If these difficulties did not stand before me I would be more than happy to make such a statement. Maybe at some later date it will be possible to make such a statement without having future repercussions.

I would be very happy to hear from you concerning your reaction to the problem I am confronting. Let me assure you once more that Glenn has been most helpful. I hope that the position that I am taking at this point will not be construed as ingratitude in any sense, but as a sincere attempt to deal with an obvious problem.

Very sincerely yours,  
M. L. King, Jr.,  
President

MLKmlb

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 16.