Telegram to T. H. Randall
from Rome on 14 March 1957

20 March 1957
Montgomery, Ala.

Following a brief visit to Nigeria, the Kings arrived in Europe. This telegram to the Dexter congregation was printed six days later in the church’s newsletter, the Dexter Echo.

Professor TH Randall, Chr Board Deacons

DEAR MEMBERS, HAVING WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE . . AFRICA WAS MOST INSPIRING . . . WE ARE NOW IN ROME WITH THE EXPERIENCES OF GENEVA, PARIS, AND LONDON STILL AHEAD. WE THINK OF YOU OFTEN . . . WE CAN NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS . . . WILL SEE YOU VERY SOON.

Your Pastor and His Wife

TWc. DABCC.

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1. Thomas Hamilton Randall (1887-1965), born in Russell County, Alabama, attended Selma University before earning a B.A. (1913) from Howard University and an M.A. (1939) from the University of Michigan. Randall served on Dexter Church’s advisory board beginning in 1933, and became a deacon around 1939. A long-time Sunday school teacher at Dexter, Randall was elected Vice Chairman of Deacons in 1941 and served as chair of the board of deacons from 1947 until 1961.

From C. L. R. James

5 April 1957
London, England

On their return trip from Ghana, the Kings stopped in London for four days. After touring Buckingham Palace, Parliament, and Westminster Abbey, they spent the afternoon of 24 March talking with a group of black intellectuals that included West Indian writer C. L. R. James, who was working on a book about Ghana and Nkrumah.1 Later recounting the meeting with King in a letter to his political...

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1. The group also included West Indian writer George Lamming and English activist David Pitt. Cyril Lionel Robert James (1901-1989), born in Trinidad, was a historian, novelist, Marxist theorician and activist in the anticolonial and Pan-African movements. Before moving to the United States in 1938, James worked as a schoolteacher in Trinidad and as a sportswriter in England. After being expelled from the U.S. on a passport violation in 1953, James returned to London but remained involved in the Johnson-Forest Tendency, a small group of U.S. radicals and Marxist theorists. James’s group also championed the cause of non-Marxist anticolonial movements. James wrote an historical account of the Haitian independence struggle, The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San...