Let me take this opportunity to tell you too that you have been much in our prayers, as in those of thousands of others, during these recent weeks. May God soon restore your health so that you can carry on your great work.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Anne Braden

THLS. MLKP-MBU: Box 84.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

From Rocco C. Siciliano

17 October 1958
Washington, D.C.

White House aide Siciliano replies to King's 13 October telegram to the president.¹

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
208 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Dr. King:

The President has asked me to thank you for your telegram of October 13 in which you commend his actions following the recent bombing in Atlanta.

As you know, the President feels very strongly about this outrageous occurrence, as well as that in Peoria.² His indignation was evident again in Wednesday's press conference when he said that he would continue to speak out against this type of action.³ He emphasized that the full facilities of the Federal Government

---

¹. Rocco C. Siciliano (1922–), born in Salt Lake City, Utah, received a B.A. (1944) from the University of Utah and an LL.B. (1948) from Georgetown University. He joined Eisenhower's staff in 1957 as the President's Special Assistant for Personnel Management and soon became Eisenhower's chief advisor on minority affairs. On 9 June 1958 Siciliano met with King prior to the 23 June meeting between civil rights leaders and Eisenhower.


³. At the 15 October press conference Eisenhower denounced the Confederate Underground, the organization suspected of the Atlanta bombing: "For hoodlums such as these to describe themselves as any part or any relation to the Confederacy of the mid-19th century is, to my mind, a complete insult to the word. Indeed they should be described as nothing but Al Capones and Babyface Nelsons and that kind of hoodlum" (Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Dwight D. Eisenhower [1959], p. 742).
would be and are being provided local authorities so that these “hoodlums,” as he called them, may soon be apprehended and punished.

I have been asked to assure you that your suggestion for a White House conference, which was first made by your group to the President last June, is receiving continuing consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Rocco C. Siciliano
Special Assistant to the President

[I hope you have recovered!]

TAL. MLKP-MBU: Box 18.

From George W. Davis

17 October 1958

Dear Martin:—

You have been much in the thoughts and prayers of the Davises these latter days, but only yesterday did I find your temporary address in Brooklyn. Hence the tardiness of this note, despite the fact that we have frequently turned toward you in the spirit. Our concern for you has been deep and we rejoice now in the news of your steady recovery.

You will be interested to know how greatly both Paul and John admire you, both for yourself and the work you are doing. They have much to learn from you and will probably need some of your wisdom as both are idealists resolved to walk the way to a better, saner, and safer world. Both are registered with the draft as C.Os. of their own decision. I think they are each committed persons as are you.

Mrs. [Mildred] Davis and I did want you to know that our moral and spiritual support stands back of you. Do get well soon. Drop in and see us any time.

As ever,
[signed] George W. Davis

ALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 22A.

1. See pp. 528–529 in this volume.
2. Davis refers to his sons.