I am grateful to you for what you said about me personally and shall strive to deserve it better. The thirty years and odd I have given to the service of humanity, I feel, have not been as complete as they should have been, nor adequate enough, though intentions all along have been good. But it is in His hands to use this humble instrument for what it is worth.

I hope you would not mind this deviation as it has been provoked by your letter. The correct way my name is written is Swami Vishwananda.

Please convey my affection to Mrs. King, the children and Dr. Reddick.

Yours sincerely,
[signed] Vishwananda
(Swami Vishwananda)

TALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 26.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

To Ella J. Baker

3 July 1959
[Montgomery, Ala.]

King suggests that Baker prepare a series of press releases for the upcoming “Institute on Non-Violent Resistance to Segregation” at Spelman College. In her 7 July reply, Baker detailed plans for the conference and informed King that his “suggestions regarding press releases will be followed.” On 22 July, King delivered the keynote address at the conference, which was co-sponsored by SCLC, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and FOR.¹

Miss Ella J. Baker
Executive Director
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference
208 Auburn Ave, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Ella:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter that I have just received from the Indian Ambassador. Since we cannot get a figure of his caliber I suggest that we dispense with the mass meeting.² This means that the conference will close after Friday afternoon’s session.

¹. For more information on the institute, see Resolutions, First Southwide Institute on Nonviolent Resistance to Segregation, 11 August 1959, pp. 261–262 in this volume.

². The Indian ambassador to the United States, M. C. Chagla, declined King’s invitation to address the institute, explaining in a 1 July letter that it would be inappropriate for him “to intervene on a question which solely concerns the Government of this country and its people.” He added: "I must keep aloof from all controversies and . . . the question of segregation is one of the most controversial subjects to-day” (see also King to Chagla, 19 June 1959).
MEMORANDUM

FROM: Ella J. Baker

TO: Rev. W.J. King, Jr., and Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE OF SCLC'S FIRST SOUTHWIDE INSTITUTE ON NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE TO SEGREGATION

The following skeletal draft was drawn up by Mr. Reddick and myself just prior to my trip to New York. It was my hope that it could have been discussed with Bayard Rustin and Glenn Smiley while there. However this did not work out, so it is being submitted for your thinking:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Opening Plenary Session

2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

1. Worship

2. Orientation directions from Dean of Institute

3. Presentation of "Keysnotes" presentation

4. Orientation to "Keysnotes" presentation

5:00 - 6:00 P.M. DINNER

THURSDAY, JULY 23

8:30 - 9:00 A.M. PLenary Session

1. Motion to approve the objectives and agenda

2. Questions and discussion from the floor

3. Progress Against Untouchability in India

4. Strategy and Techniques of Nonviolence

King writes handwritten comments on Ella Baker’s proposed schedule for SCLC’s July 1959 First Southwide Institute on Nonviolent Resistance to Segregation (July 1959)
FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1958

MORNING SESSION
Dr. C. O. Simpkins, Presiding

8:30  -  8:55  MORNING SERVICE
Dr. Harry Richardson

9:00  -  9:15  Report on Thursday evening session

9:15  -  10:15  PANEL DISCUSSION - Allies and Opponents of Negroes Drive for Equality

10:15  -  10:30  Brief question period.

10:30  -  12:30  Break up into small groups.

AFTERNOON SESSION
Dr. Charles Lawrence, Presiding

2:00  -  4:00  Summary Session.
(Reports on morning session, overall reports, recommendations, etc.)

EVENING SESSION

PUBLIC MASS MEETING
In order to keep the conference before the public I would suggest getting a press release out every week leading up to the conference. In one of them you may stress the fact that Dr. Nelson will be one of the key speakers. This will give you an opportunity to make a statement about his background and his broad knowledge about the Gandhian philosophy. You may get another release out on Charles Lawrence and Richard Gregg. Another one might deal with the whole question of violence which has become a live issue as a result of the Williams case, making it clear that this conference will emerge with some answer to the pressing questions on the lips of people all over this nation.

Very sincerely yours,
Martin
MLK:mlb
Enc

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 20.

3. An article that was likely drawn from a Baker press release appeared in the *Atlanta Daily World* before the conference ("Dr. William Stuart Nelson to Address Leadership Institute," *Atlanta Daily World*, 14 July 1959). Nelson, the dean of Howard University, was an expert on Gandhi and had recently returned from an extended stay in India (see King to Nelson, 7 April 1959, pp. 181–182 in this volume).

4. SCLC, Press release, 3 July–22 July 1959. Lawrence was the national chairman of FOR (1955–1963); Gregg was a Gandhian scholar and a member of FOR.

5. SCLC, Press release, 25 July–28 July 1959. Union County, North Carolina, NAACP leader Robert F. Williams had recently advocated that African Americans defend themselves with weapons because of the failure of white authorities to protect black civil rights. For more on Williams, see King, Address at the Fiftieth Annual NAACP Convention, 17 July 1959, pp. 245–250 in this volume.

To Tom Mboya

8 July 1959
[Montgomery, Ala.]

On 16 June, shortly after attending an SCLC-sponsored "Africa Freedom Dinner," Kenyan nationalist leader Mboya wrote King requesting financial assistance for a Kenyan student who was to enter Tuskegee Institute in the fall.

1. See King, Remarks Delivered at Africa Freedom Dinner at Atlanta University, 13 May 1959, pp. 203–204 in this volume.