1EK 70.06

Note: On May 12, 1963, the Mississippi State NAACP Board of Directors, meeting in Jackson, unanimously approved a resolution endorsing the position taken by the Jackson NAACP adult and youth affiliates. The position involved calls for an end to segregation and discrimination in Jackson, good faith negotiations -- with representatives from the economic and political power structure of Jackson -- toward those goals, and -- if such good faith negotiations do not occur -- intensive direct action and litigation which will begin in the very near future.

The communication which is quoted in its entirety below is an outgrowth of this. It was sent, on May 13, 1963, by certified mail and with return receipts requested, to the following: Governor Ross R. Barnett, Mayor Allen E. Thompson, City Commission, Bankers Association, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Jackson Association, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Mississippi Economic Council. All return receipts have been received -- indicating that the addressees have received their communications.

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Dear Sir: May 12, 1963

The NAACP is determined to put an end to all forms of racial segregation in Jackson. This means that we want to end the discriminatory practices in the businesses that now do not give fair employment opportunities to colored citizens. We also insist that segregation now practiced in the restroom and restaurant and other facilities of these establishments be ended. As the patrons who help to make it possible for these businesses to continue to operate at a profit, we know that we have the economic strength to back up our requests with effective action. A selective buying campaign is already underway. Unless we get results through peaceful negotiations undertaken in good faith, we have no alternative but to step up and broaden our selective buying campaign to produce the results that will make Jackson a place of fair play for all persons without regard to race.

We are determined to end all state and local government sponsored segregation in the parks, playgrounds, schools, libraries and other public facilities. To accomplish this we shall use all lawful means of protest -- picketing, marches, mass meetings, litigation, and whatever other legal means we deem necessary.

At this time we wish to let the city, the state, the nation and the world know that we want to meet with city officials and community leaders to make good faith attempts to settle grievances and assure immediate full citizenship rights for all Americans. We earnestly hope that those who have the best interests of the city at heart will accept our offer to reach a speedy and orderly settlement. We call upon President John F. Kennedy and any other national leaders who share our love of freedom to use their good offices in helping to get these discussions started.

Sincerely yours,

Jackson NAACP branches
1072 West Lynch Street

(Signed by:

Mr. Medgar W. Evers
Field Secretary

Mrs. Doris Allison
President, Jackson Branch

Mr. John R. Salter
Advisor, Youth Council

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