

DEAR SISTER MARY:

THIS IS A SMALL NOTE OF APPRECIATION FOR THE MONEY THAT YOU SENT DONA + ME. I AM SORRY - WE ARE SORRY - TO TAKE SO LONG IN COMMUNICATING WITH YOU. IT'S JUST THAT WE'VE BEEN SO INVOLVED IN GETTING SETTLED (WE STILL DON'T HAVE PERMANENT LIVING QUARTERS) THAT WE'VE HAD LITTLE TIME TO GET OUR AFFAIRS STRAIGHTENED OUT.

YOUR + BILL'S CONTRIBUTION IS THE MAIN REASON THAT WE CAN WRITE YOU FROM ATLANTA NOW. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SMALL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM DONA'S FOLKS, WE RECEIVED NEXT TO NOTHING AT ALL. WELL, IT WAS A GREAT PERSONAL STRUGGLE BUT WE FINALLY ARRIVED...

THERE IS MUCH EXCITEMENT HERE (SNCC - STOKELY - ETC., ARE NOT WHAT THEY'RE LEADING BLACK FOLKS TO BELIEVE THEY ARE), MUCH DISSAPPOINTMENT - BUT I'LL TELL YOU MORE - MUCH MORE - IN A LONGER LETTER. HERE'S DONA:

Hi Mary, we're very sorry about not getting in touch with you sooner, but as Holland said we're still in the process of getting settled. We really appreciate the help that Bill and you were able to give us; this meant a lot to us because it gave us renewed strength to know that we had good people behind ~~us~~. We thank you and Bill for the money, but most of all we thank you for the thought behind it, for your faith in us; and for your belief in our dreams and what we are trying to accomplish. - The Southland is beautiful Mary; we hope that some day you'll be able

to come visit us here in Atlanta. We know that you'd love the countryside but even above that we know that you'd feel proud to view the sincerity and ~~strife~~^{struggle} for truth that the Nationalist have here.

AT THIS TIME WE ARE STAYING WITH FRIENDS - GOOD BROTHERS + SISTERS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING A TRULY BLACK MOVEMENT - AS OPPOSED TO STOKELY'S OPPORTUNISTIC RANTING AND DEMAGOGERY. WE PLAN TO GET AN APARTMENT AND, LATER, A HOUSE SO THAT WE CAN SET UP A PERMANENT RESIDENCE. AS DONA SAID, IT IS SO REFRESHING TO BE WITH BROS. + SISTERS WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH THE PEOPLE (MASS) RATHER THAN WITH ISOLATED, DOGMATIC CLIQUES IN COFFEESHOPS ALIENATED FROM THE COMMUNITY, SPOUTING NONSENSE.

THE ATMOSPHERE IS SLOWER, WARMER, MORE FRIENDLY, MORE CONDUCTIVE TO REST AND RELAXATION (WHICH WE NEED); SO THAT WE'RE SLOWLY GETTING OUR INTERNAL SELVES TOGETHER SO THAT WE CAN PLAY A MORE STABLE ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE THAN IN PAST TIMES. WE'LL BE WRITING YOU AND INFORMING YOU OF EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE DOWN HERE AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THINGS NATIONALLY. BE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY (REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT RESISTING FASCIST + REACTIONARY FORCES - WHEREVER YOU FIND THEM) AND GET SOME REST, MARY. IT'S A LONG STRUGGLE. AND DON'T LET THOSE PEOPLE UP THERE GET YOUR GOAT. GIVE OUR REGARDS TO BRO. ED SPRIGGS + TELL HIM I'LL HAVE SOMETHING FOR HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

YOUR BROTHER + SISTER ALWAYS,

Rolland + Dona