

**Atlanta, Georgia, 6/11/80**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

5/1/80

To: Nancy Jordan

From: Cee Cee Jakovich  
Presidential Scheduling  
182 OEOB

*Cee Cee*

As I mentioned on the telephone, U.S. Parole Commissioner Benjamin Malcolm, a Morehouse alumnus, will be in the audience for commencement next week.

Jo Carpenter from our press office suggested that Mrs. Carter or the Pres. (if he had gone) might want to recognize Mr. Malcolm in the audience as a Presidential appointee from Morehouse.

Jo Carpenter has more info on Mr. Malcolm (x2100). Commissioner Malcolm is on 724-7325.

Thanks.

P.S. RSC's USSS Lead <sup>Advance</sup> is also a Morehouse alumnus - Maybe we can recognize him also.

NKJ

7-  
Jy I  
file someplace

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 5/7/80

TO: FAITH

The only honorary degree RSC has received so far is from Tift College. This was a Doctor of Humanities Degree. The citation states that she is being honored as First Lady, a trusted advisor to the President, a daughter, mother, and grandmother, and a concerned, compassionate, creative campaigner for Christian causes.

Marionne Degree

4th woman

3rd ~~first~~ couple

Carol (Marionne) Professor  
Coretta King  
(Leontyne Price)

- M.L. Kings were first

FROM: Carol Emig  
Room 212  
East Wing  
Ext. 7136

# Changing liberal Challenge -



ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

4:45

H. Gloster - Marthouse

1) emphasize P's

Commitment to black colleges

(Louis Martin)

all Fed agency - applications - Fed programs

2) Refer to his Hon. Chairmanship

United Negro College Fund

Campaign - (See P's statement)

3) also use Executive

Order to consideration of  
applications - (larger number  
of grants?)

4) Prior to election, I

received Hon Degree - 1974

"First Marthouse Man in the  
White House"



ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

Could also mention P +  
Maynard Jackson kicked  
off 20 million Campaign  
'72 - when Governor - KSC  
was here. (23 million  
raised!)

Contribution of black colleges  
in U.S.

Closeness of Carter's to  
Marchese -

12

# MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314 Telephone: Area Code 404/681-2800, Ext. 441

Office of the President

April 21, 1980

*JSE / honorary degree invitation*

Mrs. Rosalynn Carter  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

*Yvonne King*

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Chapel  
West View Drive  
off Ashley*

Dear Mrs. Carter:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Trustees of Morehouse College has approved the awarding of the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane letters to you during Commencement Exercises at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 11.

I sincerely trust that you will be able to come here to receive the degree, which may not be conferred in absentia, and also that your husband, President Jimmy Carter, will be able to serve as our Commencement speaker. If you can be present, please let us know whether you will bring your own cap and gown or whether you wish us to order them for you. If you want us to order them, please send immediately your height and hat sizes.

You and President Carter are invited to attend a Commencement Luncheon at 12 noon on May 11 in honor of honorary degree recipients and faculty members who have received the Ph.D. degree during the past year and, following the Commencement Exercises, a reception in honor of graduating seniors and their families.

Please send a glossy photograph for use in publicity as well as a biographical sketch with any additional notes that might be useful in your citation. Feature articles on you would be good sources of information.

The College does not cover travel expenses for recipients of honorary degrees but does take care of meals, lodging, and hospitality in Atlanta. Mrs. Gloster and I would be pleased to have you and the President as our house guests during your stay in Atlanta if this is at all feasible.

We are looking forward to your participating in our Commencement Exercises and also to having President Carter serve as our principal speaker, and we sincerely trust that the two of you will be able to be present.

Warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

*Hugh M. Gloster*

Hugh M. Gloster  
President

HMG:yak



APR 28 1980

5/9/80

MARY--

MOREHOUSE APPLICATION FOR  
LOW-INTEREST HOUSING LOAN

I spoke with Sharon Mizell at HUD about Morehouse's application for a low-interest loan (3% over 40 years) to build dormitories. Morehouse filed this application in 1979 under the College Loan Program and was turned down. (Thirty schools received funding under this program-- Morehouse ranked about 50th.) It is likely that Morehouse will resubmit its application this year.

There is a provision in the College Loan Program that 10% of the program's money be set aside for historically black colleges, which is obviously to Morehouse's advantage. Nevertheless, Ms. Mizell doubted that Morehouse would receive a loan--there are simply too many other schools (including black schools) that have a greater need.

*Carol*

# THE PRESIDENT'S CHARGE TO THE SENIOR CLASS

by

Hugh M. Gloster, President of Morehouse College

Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Chapel  
Morehouse College  
Atlanta, Georgia

3 p.m.  
May 11  
1980

Members of the Graduating Class:

This is the day when you complete your college studies and obtain your baccalaureate degrees, but it is not a day of ending. To the contrary, it is a day of beginning; and therefore it is called commencement day.

Beginning today, as you enter the world of work or continue your studies in graduate or professional school, you can make a fresh start in life. Starting now, you have what the Romans called a tabula rasa or a clean sheet; and there is not a blemish on your record. On this occasion, therefore, I challenge each of you to try to keep your record unmarred by developing yourself and by helping your fellow man to the limit of your ability.

Morehouse has filled you with the oil of knowledge. What are you going to do with this oil which your parents have bought with great sacrifice? Are you going to let this oil leak and waste away? Are you going to use it to gain wealth and power for yourself? Are you going to use it to burn and destroy others? Or are you going to use it to provide light and comfort for humanity? I hope and pray that each of you will want to give as much as you receive as a result of obtaining the oil of knowledge from Morehouse College.

As you leave this school, please remember that a Morehouse Man is expected not only to succeed in his field of specialization

but also to help the downtrodden of our race, our country, and our world. You must be more than a successful physician, dentist, lawyer, businessman, engineer, teacher, or minister: you must also be a constructive citizen and a dedicated humanitarian. And some of you, following in the footsteps of Howard Thurman and Martin Luther King Jr, must be emancipators and even saviors.

The journey from the cradle to the grave is unbelievably short, and each of us travels this road only once. What kind of a record will you make? Will you loaf and waste your life away? Will you let drinks or drugs destroy your parents' dreams and wreck your family? Will you use your education to exploit the illiterate and the poor? Or will you use your knowledge to help and lift your fellow man? I hope and pray that you will live in such a way that God and humanity will rejoice that you were born.

Always remember that Morehouse goes up or down as you go up or down. When you succeed, Morehouse triumphs. When you fail, Morehouse goes down in defeat.

Also bear in mind that Morehouse men always meet challenges, and therefore I am asking, as you leave your Alma Mater, to repeat these words after me:

If there's an ocean, we cross it.  
If there's a disease, we cure it.  
If there's a wrong, we right it.  
If there's a record, we break it.  
And, finally, if there's a mountain, we climb it.

CITATION TO ROSALYNN SMITH CARTER

by

as delivered

Hugh M. Gloster, President of Morehouse College

Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Chapel  
Morehouse College  
Atlanta, Georgia

3 p.m.  
May 11  
1980

Rosalynn Smith Carter:

Neither the Constitution nor any other governmental document defines the duties and responsibilities of the First Lady of the United States. As a result, each First Lady has been free to support her husband in the way that she deemed best; and Presidents' wives have participated in varying degrees in affairs of state during their residence in the White House.

<sup>Most</sup> Many informed observers feel that you are the most versatile and supportive First Lady in the history of this country. Like Martha Washington, you are a devoted wife and mother. Like Abigail Adams, you are an informed and intelligent advisor. Like Dolly Madison, you are a gracious and charming hostess. Like Eleanor Roosevelt, you are a valuable participant in election campaigns and an effective emissary to foreign countries. As a personal representative of the President, you have already visited Europe, Asia, and Latin America. During the 1976 campaign you worked in 41 states, and you will probably surpass this record in the current drive. *Campaign*

Like Eleanor Roosevelt again, you have shown deep concern for the disadvantaged and have tried <sup>sincerely</sup> to improve their lot in life. As First Lady of Georgia, you served as a member of the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped. As First Lady of the United States, you have been concerned with problems of mental health and needs of the elderly. You have served as a member of the Board of Directors of the

National Association for Mental Health and as Honorary Chairperson of the Presidential Commission on Mental Health, [which made a report containing recommendations included in the Mental Health Systems Act presented to Congress last May.] In an address to the World Health Organization in 1979 you urged all countries to make an international approach to the solution of health problems. In the United States--and especially in <sup>Atlanta</sup> Washington--you have worked in programs for the ill, the aged, and the underprivileged. You have backed the Equal Rights Amendment, <sup>you</sup> and have assisted in the development of the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change. <sup>with close friend</sup> C. S. King

Since the time when you were First Lady of Georgia, you have shown deep interest in black colleges and especially in Morehouse. Along with your husband, you were on hand for the launching of our Second-Century Development Campaign in 1972. <sup>We had goal of 30 m. Raised 25 m.</sup> You have supported the President in his capacity as Honorary Chairman of the current United Negro College Fund Capital Campaign and in his executive order requiring federal agencies to grant more awards and contracts to ~~deserving~~ <sup>black</sup> black colleges. You have also supported our successful efforts to start the third predominantly black medical school at this institution.

In recognition of your many talents as a First Lady and your sincere concern for the disabled and disadvantaged, we are pleased to honor you today. Therefore, upon the recommendation of the Faculty and by virtue of the authority vested in me as President by the Board of Trustees of Morehouse College, I hereby confer upon you the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.

Executive Summary: Report on the President's Black College Initiative

On January 17, 1979, President Carter issued a memorandum to 52 federal departments and agencies directing them to explore ways to increase the participation of historically black institutions in federal programs. The departments and agencies were directed, where appropriate, to establish goals which would increase black college participation in federal programs over 1978 levels.

This report represents an analysis of federal support to historically black institutions from twenty-three federal departments and agencies for Fiscal Years 1978 and 1979 and projected support to these institutions for Fiscal Year 1980. All departments and agencies which committed significant levels of support to colleges and universities during the years covered in the report were examined. The pattern of agency support to historically black institutions is compared to the pattern of agency support to all other colleges and universities.

Support is examined in the context of funding to historically black institutions. Historically Black Institutions are a group of about 105 public and private institutions which were established in 17 states to provide educational opportunities for black citizens in segregated systems of higher education. While the history of these institutions is often widely recognized, contemporary educational analysis seldom acknowledges that these small institutions continue to provide almost half the baccalaureate degrees received by black Americans. That is, about 90 four-year, historically black institutions award approximately the same number of baccalaureate degrees to black Americans as the number awarded by about 1500 predominantly white institutions.

The government-wide response to President Carter's memorandum was mixed. Twelve departments and agencies increased their obligations in Fiscal Year 1979 by 20% or more over the previous year with the most notable increases occurring at the Departments of Commerce and Labor. Significant increases were also noted at the Justice Department and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the National Science Foundation, and the Agency for International Development reported significant decreases.

The twenty-three departments and agencies examined in this report obligated \$379 million to historically black institutions or 4.9% of \$7.7 billion obligated to all colleges and universities in Fiscal Year 1978. The same departments and agencies obligated \$394.4 million or 4.4% of \$8.9 billion obligated in Fiscal Year 1979. The amount obligated to historically black institutions increased by \$15 million between Fiscal Years 1978 and 1979, but black college participation declined as a percentage of federal support to all colleges and universities.

Departments and agencies project obligations of \$9.8 billion to all colleges and universities and \$472.9 million or 4.8% of total obligations to historically black institutions in Fiscal Year 1980. Of the projected \$78.5 million increase however, 96% is an anticipated \$75 million increase in student financial aid projected by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Discussions with student financial assistance officials suggest that the projected increase is unrealistic. Without the projected increase in student financial assistance, departments and agencies project a total increase of \$3.5 million, or less than a 1% increase to historically black colleges in Fiscal Year 1980.

The President's memorandum should be reissued. This new memorandum should designate the Secretary of Education as the federal official responsible for providing administrative support to a government-wide initiative, and require all

federal departments and agencies with obligations of \$1 million or more to colleges and universities to establish appropriate funding goals for Fiscal Years 1980, 1981, and 1982. The memorandum should mandate the appointment of a liaison in each department and agency with authority to initiate and oversee departmental activity designed to increase the participation of Historically Black Institutions in federal programs.

In addition to reissuing of the memorandum, the government-wide response could be significantly improved if:

- o Federal program managers become familiar with the different capabilities and interests of the historically black institutions;
- o Departments and agencies are encouraged to undertake joint activities where they share similar programmatic objectives;
- o Program managers are encouraged to make grants large enough to support significant activity at the institutions rather than small, limited purpose grants;
- o Program regulations and requirements are reviewed to assure that smaller institutions are not arbitrarily excluded from program activities;
- o The peer review process at departments and agencies includes individuals who are sensitive to the capabilities and needs of historically black institutions.

In the transition from a Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to a Department of Education, particular attention should be paid to assuring that the historic commitment to black colleges is retained within certain programs.

Programs of particular sensitivity during the transition are:

- o The Student Financial Assistance Programs
- o The Developing Institutions Program
- o The Housing Loan Program
- o The Minority Institutions Science Improvement Program

There are a number of barriers to increasing black college participation in federal programs. One such barrier is lack of regular or past contact between the institutions and many of the federal agencies. The varied size, location, and capabilities among the institutions require that federal officials increase contact with the institutions in order to understand the wide range of approaches which must be taken in order to assist as many institutions as possible. The number and effectiveness of minority focused programs within the agencies should be reviewed. Agencies should also increase communications between themselves, and where possible, undertake interagency efforts.

More than half of federal assistance to historically black institutions is in the form of financial assistance to low income students. Federal financial assistance policies have a greater impact upon enrollment and operation at historically black institutions than at institutions generally. Federal financial aid policies should be reviewed to determine whether or not accompanying regulations and requirements place a disproportionate burden upon small institutions with large percentages of low-income students.

Historically black institutions do not participate in federal research and development activities to any significant degree. This is important because federal expenditures to colleges and universities continue to show significant increases in the research and development sector. About 10% of the historically black institutions already possess the necessary infrastructure to significantly increase their participation in federal research and development programs. Other institutions have unique capabilities to evaluate the impact of federal policies upon specific domestic and foreign communities. An effort to strengthen historically black colleges must include a directed effort to increase their participation in the research, development, and evaluation programs of the federal agencies.

A coordinated effort which targets specific departments and agencies for action in Fiscal Years 1980 and 1981 is needed to improve the government-wide response to the President's memorandum. As part of this effort, an overall fiscal goal should be set for a government-wide response to the President's memorandum.

This report identifies twelve departments and agencies for specific attention in Fiscal Years 1980 and 1981. More aggressive attention to the objectives of the President's memorandum within these agencies would result in a significant increase in support to the historically black institutions. In suggesting specific goals for the identified departments and agencies, care was taken to project levels of support which could be attained within current resource levels. Support to historically black institutions, according to these projections, could be increased by \$50 to \$60 million without distorting the budgets or program objectives of the agencies.

MAY 11, 1980

AS DELIVERED

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE - ATLANTA, GEORGIA

RSC's REMARKS

THANK YOU, DR. GLOSTER. IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY, AND IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK HOME, TOO. THE PRESIDENT AND I FEEL VERY CLOSE TO THE MOREHOUSE FAMILY.

WE ESPECIALLY REMEMBER THE HONORARY DEGREE YOU BESTOWED UPON MY HUSBAND IN 1975. YOU SAID THEN, "THE ROAD FROM PLAINS TO THE WHITE HOUSE IS LONG, ROCKY AND UPHILL ALL THE WAY; YOU ARE TRAVELING THIS ROAD WITH INTELLIGENCE, COMMITMENT, COURAGE AND DETERMINATION." WE REMEMBER YOUR WORDS AND YOUR CONFIDENCE.

WE REMEMBER ALSO WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THIS GREAT COLLEGE WHEN JIMMY WAS GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA. HE SPEAKS OFTEN ABOUT THE IMPACT ON OUR NATION OF THE COURAGEOUS BLACK COLLEGES, AND HE LENDS HIS UNSWERVING SUPPORT AS PRESIDENT TO THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND.

HE ALSO HAS ISSUED ORDERS TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE BLACK COLLEGE PARTICIPATION IN ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS. AND I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE HIM ON THAT SUBJECT:

"BLACK COLLEGES HAVE NEVER BEEN WEAK," HE HAS SAID. "THEY'VE NEVER BEEN UNCERTAIN. THEY'VE NEVER BEEN DOUBTFUL. THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY ALL WHO HAVE OBSERVED THEM. THEY HAVE COME TO REPRESENT A UNIQUE SYMBOL OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL ITS BROAD CATEGORIES."

THE CARTERS HAVE HAD WONDERFUL TIMES TOGETHER WITH MOREHOUSE COLLEGE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OVER THE YEARS. YOU HELPED US TO CELEBRATE OUR INAUGURATION BY SENDING THE GLEE CLUB TO WASHINGTON IN 1976; AND THEY CAME AGAIN IN 1978 FOR A RECEPTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CENTER FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.

AND MY HUSBAND IS PROUD TO BE "THE FIRST MOREHOUSE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE." AND I AM SURE HE WILL NOT BE THE LAST ONE!

THIS IS A BITTERSWEET TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT. HE HAS SO MANY PLANS FOR OUR COUNTRY. BUT DIFFICULT AND PROFOUND ISSUES CRY FOR ATTENTION IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS. THESE ARE HOURS IN OUR NATIONAL HISTORY FOR MAKING PAINFUL DECISIONS ABOUT COMPLEX ISSUES -- ISSUES THAT GO TO THE HEART OF THE FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND SECURITY WHICH ARE THE BASIC RIGHTS OF EVERY PERSON ON THIS EARTH.

AND THE PRESIDENT IS MAKING THESE PAINFUL DECISIONS. HE IS TAKING ACTION TO ALLEVIATE A BROAD RANGE OF PROBLEMS THAT CHALLENGE OUR VERY WAY OF LIFE. FOR EXAMPLE:

- ACTIONS THAT WILL BRING ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF 53 AMERICAN CITIZENS HELD HOSTAGE IN IRAN;
- ACTIONS THAT WILL WARN THE RUSSIANS THAT BRUTAL AGGRESSION IN AFGHANISTAN -- OR IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY -- WILL NEVER BE TOLERATED BY THE FREE WORLD;
- ACTIONS THAT WILL INSURE A BEACON OF LIBERTY IN OUR LAND FOR ALL STARVING OR OPPRESSED OR HOMELESS PEOPLE SEEKING OUR SHORES;

-- ACTIONS THAT WILL EASE SUFFERING AND GIVE HOPE TO THE POOR, THE WEAK, THE NEEDY, THE HANDICAPPED, THE ELDERLY, THE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY AFFLICTED.

EVEN IN THIS TIME OF SPENDING RESTRAINTS, HE IS WORKING VERY HARD TO BE SURE THAT THOSE WHO NEED GOVERNMENT SERVICES MOST DO NOT SUFFER UNFAIRLY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CUTS IN: SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID, SSI, AFDC, BLACK COLLEGES PROGRAMS -- 27% INCREASE -- HEAD START, MEALS ON WHEELS, MINORITY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE, ELDERLY HOUSING PROGRAMS, ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAMS, CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT, SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAMS -- ONE NEW PROGRAM, TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP ... AND A JOB.

WE LIVE TODAY IN A WORLD OF CONSTRUCTIVE REVOLUTION, A MAJOR PART OF WHICH HAD ITS BIRTH HERE AT MOREHOUSE. YOUR PERSISTENT AND COURAGEOUS DEMAND THAT RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION BE ENDED IN OUR LAND HAS NOT ONLY TRANSFORMED AMERICAN SOCIETAL STRUCTURES, BUT HAS INSPIRED MANY OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO SEEK THE ESTABLISHMENT AND PROTECTION OF THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. THE STRUGGLE IS NOT OVER EITHER HERE OR OVERSEAS, FOR WE CAN NEVER BE SATISFIED WHEN HUMAN BEINGS ARE DEPRIVED OF ADEQUATE FOOD, HOUSING, MEDICAL CARE, EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, POLITICAL INFLUENCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE OR SELF RESPECT.

BUT BECAUSE OF MOREHOUSE MEN LIKE DR. BENJAMIN MAYS, DR. GLOSTER, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., JULIAN BOND, MAYNARD JACKSON, AND OTHERS WHOM THEY HAVE INFLUENCED -- LIKE ANDREW YOUNG -- AND JIMMY CARTER -- WE HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS. MOST LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS TO EQUALITY HAVE BEEN REMOVED, AND MANY FORMER ACTIVISTS WHO WERE JAILED BECAUSE OF THEIR STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ARE NOW ADMINISTERING PROGRAMS TO INSURE OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM DISCRIMINATION.

THE MAYORS OF LOS ANGELES, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA, GARY, NEWARK, DETROIT AND MANY OTHER CITIES HAVE OVERCOME THE FORMER EXCLUSION FROM POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. DURING THE LAST 3 YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN MORE BLACK JUDGES SEATED IN THE U.S. FEDERAL COURTS THAN IN ALL THE PREVIOUS HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY.

IN HIGH POSITIONS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, IN THE CONGRESS, IN BUSINESS, IN EDUCATION AND IN OTHER PROFESSIONS, OUR COUNTRY IS BENEFITING FROM THIS NEW LEADERSHIP, BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF YOU -- IF ALL OF US -- DID NOT CONTINUE THIS PROGRESS.

AS GRADUATES THIS YEAR, YOU ARE PROBABLY BETTER PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION IN A COMPLEX WORLD THAN ANY OTHER GENERATION IN HISTORY. YOUR LEGACY IS ACTIVISM. YOU KNOW THE NECESSITY FOR SETTING PRIORITIES IN AN AGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION EXPLOSION. YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THE VALUE OF SOUND JUDGMENT AND PERSPECTIVE IN AN AGE OF VIRTUALLY INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS. YOU KNOW MORE. YOU HAVE SEEN MORE.

YOU HAVE ACCUMULATED AN AWESOME RESERVOIR OF IDEAS AND IMAGES AND PERCEPTIONS.

YOU, TOO, HAVE EXPERIENCED THE BURDEN OF MAKING CHOICES THAT COUNT WHEN THINGS SEEM TO BE SO VERY COMPLICATED!

WE ARE ALL COMING TO UNDERSTAND THAT SIMPLISTIC ANSWERS WON'T DO IN THE 80'S. SUPERFICIAL SOLUTIONS ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR OUR PEOPLE.

AND THUS IT FALLS ON EACH OF US TO ACT COURAGEOUSLY AND DECISIVELY -- FOR THE GOOD OF OUR OWN COUNTRY.

AND SURELY THE FINEST GUIDELINE YOU CAN FOLLOW IS YOUR OWN COLLEGE MOTTO -- TO "STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN WORLD AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS."

YOUR SUCCESS WILL BE LIMITED ONLY BY YOUR OWN AMBITION AS INDIVIDUALS. AND YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT. THE CIRCLE OF LOVE AND TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP HERE TODAY AND THE VALUES THAT YOU HAVE EVOLVED DURING YOUR YEARS AT MOREHOUSE COLLEGE WILL HELP YOU DEAL NOT ONLY WITH YOUR PERSONAL LIVES, BUT WITH OUR GREAT, BUT IMPERFECT SOCIETY.

MANY YEARS AGO, WILLIAM JAMES SAID, "OUR COLLEGES OUGHT TO HAVE LIT UP IN US A LASTING RELISH FOR THE BETTER KIND OF MAN, A LOSS OF APPETITE FOR MEDIOCRITIES." THIS CAMPUS HAS NEVER HAD AN APPETITE FOR MEDIOCRITY. YOUR PREDECESSORS HELD EXCELLENCE ABOVE ALL. AND THEY UNDERSTOOD THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR YEARS HERE. THEY HAD COURAGE. THEY WERE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE.

YOU ARE GRADUATING IN A NEW DECADE, WHICH IS TRADITIONALLY A TIME OF FRESH BEGINNINGS. AND IN SPITE OF OUR PROBLEMS, THESE CAN BE VERY GOOD YEARS -- YEARS OF OPPORTUNITY AND GREAT CHALLENGE.

WE MUST MEET THE PROMISE OF THE 1980'S AND NOT BE SO MYOPIC ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS THAT WE FAIL TO SEE OUR OPPORTUNITIES:

CAN WE HAVE A FUTURE WITH OUR COUNTRY STRONG AND AT PEACE?

CAN WE HAVE A FUTURE FUELED BY ENERGY FROM OUR OWN NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS THE SUN?

CAN WE HAVE A FUTURE IN WHICH EVERY CHILD IS WELL NOURISHED, HEALTHY, AND EDUCATED TO FULLY USE ALL OF HIS OR HER GOD-GIVEN TALENTS?

A FUTURE FREE FROM WANT AND DISCRIMINATION AND FEAR?

CAN WE HAVE A FUTURE IN WHICH EVERY PERSON IN OUR COUNTRY HAS THE FREEDOM OF A FULL, CONTRIBUTING, SATISFYING AND HAPPY LIFE?

ONE IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER -- CARE ABOUT THE HAPPINESS AND WELL BEING OF OUR FELLOW MAN.

AND CAN WE REACH BEYOND OURSELVES -- TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY A SYMBOL FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE OF WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT -- BASED ON OUR MORALITY AND COMPASSION AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE?

THE ANSWER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE "YES." THE OPPORTUNITY IS HERE. WE CAN HAVE THAT FUTURE WE ALL DREAM ABOUT. AND YOU, THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1980, HAVE -- NOT ONLY THE OPPORTUNITY, BUT ALSO THE OBLIGATION -- TO HELP SHAPE THAT FUTURE. THROUGH YOUR WORDS, YOUR ACTIONS -- YES, THROUGH YOUR DEMANDS, YOU CAN HELP ASSURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME "FREEDOM" IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE WORD.

FOR WE ALL KNOW THAT THE ULTIMATE TEST OF OUR LIVES IS NOT JUST FAME OR WEALTH, BUT IN HOW WE SERVE GOD AND -- IN SO DOING -- HOW WE SERVE OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

AND SO AS YOU GRADUATE TODAY, I REMIND YOU THAT YOUR EDUCATION HAS FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THIS NATION. YOU ARE BLESSED BECAUSE YOU LIVE IN A COUNTRY THAT IS STRONG, DYNAMIC, CHANGING, UNITED AND FREE. YOU ARE BLESSED BECAUSE YOU LIVE IN A NATION THAT RECOGNIZES THE WORTH OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN EDUCATED TO BE AMBITIOUS, HOPEFUL AND COURAGEOUS PERSONS.

I HOPE YOU SHARE MY CONFIDENCE TODAY -- BECAUSE YOU HOLD THE POWER TO MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE. WORKING TOGETHER, YOU CAN HONOR MOREHOUSE AS IT HAS HONORED YOU -- AND, EXPANDING YOUR OWN LIVES, YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS COUNTRY EVEN GREATER IN THE FUTURE.

# COMMENCEMENT

**Morehouse College**

1980



**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

**SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1980  
3:00 P.M.**

1867    *One Hundred and Thirteenth Anniversary*    1980