

NATIONAL WILMINGTON 10 DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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TO: FRIENDS (OLD & NEW) OF THE REV. BEN CHAVIS AND THE WILMINGTON 10

FEBRUARY 24, 1976

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE COUNTRY, THE WASHINGTON POST, CALLED ON THE GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCES OF REVEREND BEN CHAVIS AND HIS 9 CO-DEFENDANTS WHO ARE POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE "WILMINGTON 10". THE EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT REV. CHAVIS HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF CONTINUED HARRASSMENT SINCE 1968 DUE TO HIS CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES. MR. MCCARTHY ALSO RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHAT PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY THESE 10 YOUNG PEOPLE SERVING PRISON TERMS TOTALLING 282 YEARS OTHER THAN CONSTITUTING AN ACT OF "VENGEANCE" AND THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THEIR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THEIR FAMILIES. THE BIGGEST TRAGEDY, WE WOULD ADD, IS THAT THE WILMINGTON 10 ARE INNOCENT OF ANY CRIMES AND ARE NOW BEING SUBJECTED TO THE HORRORS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PRISON SYSTEM UNJUSTLY.

WE CALL ON YOU TO CONSIDER THE EDITORIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION ENCLOSED AND FORWARD A SUPPORTIVE LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE WASHINGTON POST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (ADDRESS: 15TH & L STS., N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005). COPIES SHOULD ALSO BE SENT TO GOVERNOR HOLSHOUSER (STATE CAPITOL, RALEIGH, NO. CAROLINA) AND TO THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE FOR OUR FILES.

THIS TYPE OF SUPPORT IS EXTREMELY NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT JUSTICE AND NOT VENGEANCE IS BROUGHT ABOUT.