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September 2, 1955

Dear Mr. Sengstacke:

The President has asked me to write you in connection with your wire of September first concerning the shocking death of Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi.

We are advised that the Department of Justice has been in close contact with the development of this case, but that so far their inquiry has failed to reveal any facts which provide a basis for Federal jurisdiction or action. It appears, therefore, that at the present time, the matter is solely within the jurisdiction of the State of Mississippi. In the event any basis for Federal jurisdiction does develop, you may be sure that appropriate action will be taken.

Sincerely,

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

J. William Barba
Assistant to the
Special Counsel to the President

Mr. John H. Sengstacke
Chicago Defender
3435 South Indiana Avenue
Chicago 16, Illinois

JWB/leb