OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TILL, EMMETT

Mr. Colvin

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

September 13, 1955

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable Dillon Anderson
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Anderson:

TILL, Emmett

I thought you and the President would be interested in the following information which indicates that the Communist Party, USA, has instituted agitational activity in connection with the murder in Mississippi of Emmett Louis Till, fourteen-year-old Negro Chicago boy.

The Communist Party of Illinois-Indiana has issued a one-page leaflet entitled "Punish the Child Lynchers." This leaflet calls upon President Eisenhower to dismiss Attorney General Brownell and to "end the disgrace of racism and Jim Crow."

The Civil Rights Congress of Illinois has issued a press release which reflects that "John T. Bernard, Chairman of the Civil Rights Congress of Illinois, has demanded that President Eisenhower 'shake up' the Justice Department and put an end to the reign of terror in Mississippi which has resulted in the lynching of a fourteen-year-old Chicago boy."

According to a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past the Communist Party, USA, is attempting to organize delegations to come to Washington, D. C., and at the present time Claude Lightfoot is scheduled to head one of these delegations, and this delegation plans to be in Washington, D. C., on September 19, 1955.

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Other delegations are being planned for the purpose of obtaining a hearing with Attorney General Brownell or with President Eisenhower and, if necessary, a delegation may be sent to Denver, Colorado, if the President is still in Denver. If these delegations are unable to obtain a hearing with either the Attorney General or the President they will then attempt to get a hearing with the Hennings Senate Judiciary Subcommittee. The over-all objective of these delegations will be to "put the heat on Federal authorities" and condemn them for not protecting constitutional guarantees in the State of Mississippi because of the failure of that state to protect these guarantees. Another objective of these delegations will be an attempt to show that the Federal Government has the duty of supporting the United States Supreme Court decision on the desegregation issue.

The Communist press is giving widespread publicity to the Till case. The "Daily Worker" for September 9, 1955, carries an article reflecting that New York City Councilman Earl Brown had urged picketing of the White House to protest the lynching of Till. This same issue of the "Daily Worker" carries a statement of the National Committee of the Communist Party which was signed by William Z. Foster, National Chairman, and which urged "Federal intervention against Mississippi lynchers." "The Worker" for September 11, 1955, carries a leading article entitled "Lynching of Fourteen-year-old Boy Arouses Nation" which bears the date line, Chicago. According to the article, well over 100,000 persons came to view the "smashed" body of Emmett Louis Till.

The "Daily Worker" for September 12, 1955, carries a front-page article, date line Chicago, entitled "Steel Union Head Writes Slain Child's Mother, Pledges Fight for Justice." The article states, "a demand that President Eisenhower immediately recall Congress to enact an antilynch law was sounded by labor and other groups here in the wake of the lynching of fourteen-year-old Emmett Louis Till." According to the article the steel-workers union president, David J. MacDonald, sent a letter to Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain child, offering the union's help in "seeing to it that justice is carried out." According

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to the article Rayfield Mooty, president of a Chicago steel union local, spoke at a rally held in Chicago on September 11, 1955, where a petition campaign was launched addressed to President Eisenhower. The petition declared in part, "We strongly urge you, Mr. President, to call a special session of Congress in order to recommend passage of additional anti-lynch and antipoll tax laws. Only in this way can we be assured that other Negro Americans will not meet a similar death."

This information has been made available to the Attorney General and to the intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces.

As additional pertinent information is received in this regard it will be furnished to you promptly.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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