PRESS RELEASE

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Mr. Randle Catron, Memphis President

The eleventh annual conference of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will be held here in Memphis on August 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. General headquarters for the Conference will be the CME Church at 531 South Parkway East. The hosts of the conference will be the members of the Memphis affiliate of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Mr. Randle Catron, a staff member of SCLC has recently come to Memphis from Washington, D.C. where he has participated actively in the Poor Peoples' Campaign, giving strong assistance to the Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, President of the Civil Rights Group.

An extensive program has been planned for the conference which may be summarized briefly. On Wednesday, August 14, there will be a General Board meeting at the C.M.E. Church consisting of ministers and laymen from throughout the United States. SCLC is bi-racial, and has no denominational boundaries. In the evening, there will be lectures and exhibitions of artifacts on "Black Art and Culture" to which the general public is invited at the Club Paradise, 545 East Georgia Street, at 8:00 p.m.

On Thursday, August 15th at 10:00 a.m. there will be a work shop dealing with recruiting, organizing and programing of the SCLC at the CME Church.
The highlight of the Conference will be a banquet at the Paradise Club at 8:00 p.m. of the 15th, at which Mrs. Coretta King will be featured speaker. Mrs. King is well known to many Memphians, and is admired by all for her courageous portrayal of composure and discipline by leading the march to City Hall which her husband had planned on behalf of the sanitation workers. Dr. King was shot on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4. Mrs. King flew to Memphis to accompany the body to Atlanta where the funeral was held, immediately after which she returned to Memphis.

On Friday, August 16th, there will be more workshops and a business session at the CME church at 10 a.m. On the evening of the 16th, the successor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as President of SCLC, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, will be featured speaker at a gigantic community mass rally at Mason Temple at 8:00 p.m. to which the general public again is invited. Dr. Abernathy has endeared himself to millions by his quite composure, his dry sense of humor, and his singleness of purpose in giving his life to the work of the SCLC. He was responsible for taking what seemed to be an utterly hopeless cause of the Poor Peoples' March on Washington, and of uniting not only negroes, but also various other minority groups behind him. Should you require any further information, you may call the CME Church. Permanent headquarters for SCLC will later be established in a Memphis office.