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Statements in the Capital

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 4—Following are the texts of statements tonight by President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey on the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

President Johnson

America is shocked and saddened by the brutal slaying tonight of Dr. Martin Luther King.

I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has struck Dr. King, who lived by nonviolence.

I pray that his family can find comfort in the memory of all he tried to do for the land he loved so well. I have just conveyed the sympathy of Mrs. Johnson and myself to his widow, Mrs. King.

I know that every American of goodwill joins me in mourning the death of this outstanding leader and in praying for peace and understanding throughout this land.

We can achieve nothing by lawlessness and divisiveness among the American people. It's only by joining together, and only by working together, can we continue to move toward equality and fulfillment for all of our people.

I hope that all Americans tonight will search their hearts as they ponder this most tragic incident.

I have canceled my plans for the evening. I am postponing my trip to Hawaii until tomorrow.

Thank you.

Vice President Humphrey

Martin Luther King stands with our other American martyrs in the cause of freedom and justice. His death is a terrible tragedy and a sorrow to his family, to our nation, to our conscience. The criminal act that took his life brings shame to our country.

The apostle of nonviolence has been the victim of violence. The cause for which he marched and worked I am sure will find a new strength.

The plight of discrimination, poverty and neglect must be erased from America, and an America of full freedom, full and equal opportunity, is the living memorial he deserves, and it shall be his living memorial.
