

DISMAY IN NATION

Negroes Urge Others to Carry on Spirit of Nonviolence

By LAWRENCE VAN GELDER

Dismay, shame, anger and foreboding marked the nation's reaction last night to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder.

From the high offices of state to the man in the street, news of the moderate civil rights leader's violent death in Memphis yesterday drew, for the most part, stunned and sober statements.

Most major Negro organizations and Negro leaders, lamenting Dr. King's death, expressed hope that it serve as a spur to others to carry on in his spirit of nonviolence. But some Negro militants responded with bitterness and anger.

Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said his organization was "shocked and deeply grieved by the dastardly murder of Dr. Martin Luther King."

"His murderer or murderers must be promptly apprehended and brought to justice," Mr. Wilkins said.

'A Man of Peace'

"Dr. King was a symbol of the nonviolent civil rights protest movement. He was a man of peace, of dedication, of great courage. His senseless assassination solves nothing. It will not stay the civil rights movement; it will instead spur it to greater activity.

"It is to be hoped that this tragedy will help move the American people to prompt action to expunge racism from our national life. If such action is taken forthwith, the sacrifice of this great and good man will not have been in vain."

Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, said:

"We are unspeakably shocked by the murder of Martin Luther King, one of the greatest lead-

ers of our time. This is a bitter reflection on America. We fear for our country.

"The only possible answer now is for the nation to act immediately on what Dr. King has been fighting for—passage of the civil rights and anti-poverty bills and a true and just equality for all men. Those of us who have remained loyal to his concept of nonviolence have been dealt a mortal blow.

"We pray that he has not died in vain. If he has, this will mean the kind of violence that he gave his life to prevent."

Mayor Richard G. Hatcher of Gary, Ind., a Negro, termed the

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death of Dr. King "every man's loss."

"We are all the survivors of this great leader," he said. "With the insanely violent acts of one distorted man, we are each shocked, saddened beyond imagination and eternally diminished. I have lost a friend."

"Men who care for human-kind and struggle for its salvation through reason and faith have lost a leader of monumental stature," he said. "A man of his magnitude will not soon pass this way again."

At his home in Stamford, Conn., the former baseball star Jackie Robinson called the shooting "the most disturbing and distressing thing we've had to face in a long time."

Mr. Robinson, now a community relations aide to Governor Rockefeller, said, "I am

Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, a Negro who is a psychologist and head of the Metropolitan Applied Research Center, said in a faltering voice: "You have to cry out in anguish for this country . . . weep for this country."

In Los Angeles, Negro leaders quickly expressed hope that community sentiment would be keyed to the nonviolence for which Dr. King crusaded rather than to the harsh circumstances of his death.

"I hope the people of the United States and especially of Los Angeles will keep a cool head and a calm spirit and let the law take its course," said

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Gilbert Lindsay, one of three Negroes on the 15-member City Council."

Sen. Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, a Negro declared:

"In our anguish and bitterness of this awful event, we must not lose sight of the meaning of this great man's life. The vindication of Dr. King's historic endeavors can only come through our renewed dedication to the human goals of brotherly love and equal justice which he so nobly advanced.

"The savage act of his assassination must not be allowed to overshadow the higher vision which Martin Luther King shared with us all. The sorrow which all Americans of good will feel at this terrible loss must bind us together, not rend us apart."

William Booth, chairman of New York City's Commission on Human Rights, said: "I would hope that no one would use Dr. King's death as an excuse for further violence."

Another call for restraint came from James Farmer, former national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, who said:

"Every racist in the country has killed Dr. King. Evil societies always destroy their consciences. The only fitting memorial to this martyred leader is a monumental commitment—now, not a day later—to eliminate racism. Dr. King hated bloodshed. His own blood must not now trigger more bloodshed."

Angry Response

An angry reaction came in Washington from Julius Hobson, a Negro who heads a militant but nonviolent civil rights group called ACT. Mr. Hobson said:

"The next black man who comes into the black community preaching nonviolence should be violently dealt with by the black people who hear him. The Martin Luther King concept of nonviolence died with him. It was a foreign ideology anyway—as foreign to this violent country as speaking Russian."

Another bitter reaction came from Lincoln O. Lynch, the former associate national director of CORE and chairman of the United Black Front. He said:

"The assassination of Martin Luther King, in my opinion, will begin to wake up black people to the fact that it is imperative to abandon the un-

conditional nonviolent concept expounded by Dr. King and adopt a position that for every Martin Luther King who falls, 10 white racists will go down with him. There is no other way. White America understands no other language."

The Most Rev. Terence J. Cooke, who was installed yesterday as the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, knelt in prayer with Archbishop Iakovos, the Greek Orthodox primate of North and South America, at a reception at the Greek Orthodox headquarters at 10 East 97th Street.

Side by side, kneeling on a red-carpeted stair before the Byzantine altar, the two prelates said the Lord's Prayer,

and then Archbishop Cooke delivered a prayer for himself and Archbishop Iakovos:

"Dear Lord," he said, "we ask you to receive the soul of Martin Luther King, who in his days did so much to give leadership, to justice for all. We pray the ideals he struggled for, the ideals he gave his life for, will be realized, so that soon America will be one, at peace, where liberty is given to all."

Governor Rockefeller, who heard the news of Dr. King's death while having dinner, immediately directed that flags on all state buildings be flown at half staff today, "as an expression of the deep sorrow felt by New Yorkers as well as men of goodwill throughout our nation and the world."

The Governor said: "I am shocked and deeply saddened by the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King, a man of wisdom and eloquence who gave his life not unlike the late President Kennedy in a courageous fight for the fundamental human values upon which our nation was founded."

Mayor Lindsay heard of Dr.

King's death while attending the premiere of "The Education of H*Y*M*A*N K*A*P*L*A*N" at the Alvin Theater. He immediately left the performance, issued a statement and sent a telegram to Mrs. King in Atlanta. In the statement the Mayor said:

"I am shocked beyond belief. This tragic and sorrowful event has had the profoundest implication for our country.

"The people of our city, of every race, I am sure, will join hands in paying tribute to him.

"Our greatest tribute to him will be to bear ourselves as he would want us to—with dignity and prayer."

In the telegram he said: Mrs. Lindsay joins me in an expression of profound sympathy. Dr. King and your family are in our prayers in this hour of supreme sorrow which an unhappy nation shares with you."

As the crowd—now about 200 persons—moved south from U Street, about a mile north of the White House, Negro beauty shops, drug and liquor stores and pool halls along rain-drenched 14th Street closed their doors.