Babatunde Spencer, chairperson
Paul Robeson Library Committee
Student Activities Center
Box 40, George ST
New Brunswick, N.J. 08903

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21702
11/17/90

Dear Babatunde Spencer,

Please do not misunderstand my salutation but I am not familiar with the name and do not know if you are a man or a woman.

I have no memorabilia, but if you do not have it, I have an original pressing of Ballad for Americans and possibly some other original 78 records. I do not recall which disappeared when I was in the army in World War II. But we were his fans and we got every record of which we knew.

African American history can cover quite a bit. If you intend to include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I have about 65,000 pages of the FBI records relating to his assassination and its investigation and some, not nearly so much, from the Department of Justice and the CIA. If you want to copy them you are welcome to do that.

When Mr. Robeson went to Washington before Pearl Harbor to sing and perhaps to address a peace meeting I met him at old National Airport, which was where the Pentagon now is, and drove him to friends of his I think were on the Howard University faculty, then picked him up and took him to the meeting, after which I drove him where he wanted to go. I now do not remember where that was.

He had a truly magnificent singing voice but what I've never seen mentioned is that in conversation his voice was also wonderfully musical.

Paul Robeson was, in every way, a truly great man. I am very pleased that you have undertaken to memorialize him in the Special Paul Robeson Section of the library of his alma mater.

It is a fine project and I wish you the best of luck with it!

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. I am 77 years old now. If in the future you know of any students or others who are interest in the records I have, referred to above, they will be part of a public archive at local Hood College.

Those records include what I was able to get by FOIA litigation on the FBI's spying and other intrusions into the sanitation-workers strike in support of which Dr. King was in Memphis and on the group of young blacks who called themselves The Invaders. This archive will include all I have. Most of it relates to the assassination of President Kennedy and its official investigations, in all about a third of a million pages.

ACADEMICS SOCIAL CULTURAL

THE PAUL ROBESON CLUB/SECTION

Student Activities Center
Box 40, George ST.
New Brunswick, N.J. 08903

November 8, 1990

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

To Whom It May Concern,

The Paul Robeson Special Interest Section of Rutgers University, seeks to enlighten its members and the rest of the Rutgers community about issues pertaining to African Americans, and to foster an environment that supports academic excellence in the true spirit of Paul Leroy Robeson, 1919 valedictorian of Rutgers College.

It has long been the hope of all of us here that we would be able to create a library as part of this educational thrust that would contain books and other resources integral to the African American community, for use by members of the Rutgers community. Currently, there is no library of this type functioning on the College Avenue Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, the location of the Paul Robeson Special Interest Section. So far our energies have enabled us to secure a space in the building for the library, yet due to limited funding, we are very much in need of the resources mentioned above.

In short, we need your help. If you have any books, periodicals, videotapes, or films pertaining to African American history, literature, music, political issues and other related topics that you can donate, discount, or because they contain copy flaws, please contact me at (201) 745-1072 as soon as possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Babatunde Spencer
Chairperson
Paul Robeson Library
Committee

enclosure
cc

Statement of Purpose of Paul Robeson Special Interest Section

The Paul Robeson Special Interest section is a symbol of acknowledgement of the late Paul Robeson. Through the efforts of all the members, those residing in the designated section, the group will work towards academic achievement and excellence. The section will place special emphasis on aiding freshman as they make the transition from high school to college; encouraging academics as well as self-growth. In addition, the group shall stress cultural enrichment and awareness among themselves, other dorm members and the college community.

The Library Committee of Paul Robeson Special Interest Section

The purpose of the library committee is not only to fulfill our educational needs, but also quench our thirst for the knowledge of our cultural heritage, the knowledge that has been lost but not forgotten.

The committee will accomplish this by researching and gathering materials such as books, tapes, periodicals, etc. These materials, pertaining to African-American history and issues will be housed in the Mettler staff office. The information will be available to all residents in Mettler, and would serve as a resource base to educate the University community on African-American issues and history.