

July 22, 1966

Dear Reverend:

I am writing this letter, as your Medical Director of the AME Health Commission, on behalf of an outstanding gentleman in public affairs. I have reference to the Honorable Governor G. Mennen Williams, former Governor of the state of Michigan and, until recently, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

Just a few months ago, before the Governor's resignation from the State Department post, I had occasion to learn of his dynamic ability and forthrightness and serious concern for little people. I am President of the National Medical Association, but I am little people and so are those whom I represent in the minds of many individuals who occupy high positions of trust and policy making.

Governor Williams showed his concern for the educational, economic, and social stature of the emerging countries of Africa. He traveled many thousands of miles visiting their government offices and their villages. Long before that, while occupying the office of Governor of the state of Michigan, he showed his concern and fairmindedness for Negro Americans and all Americans.

It was through the good offices of Governor Williams that I traveled 20,000 miles through seven countries in East and West Africa on a lecture-demonstration tour, under the auspices of the Department of State in the field of my medical specialty - gastroenterology and gastroscopy. I had been listed in the registry of possible foreign exchange professors in medicine for many years. It was only when Governor Williams cut a lot of red tape and ordered me out that the trip was possible. I visited and lectured in medical schools and hospitals in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal. During my visit in Nigeria and particularly in Monrovia, Liberia, I was able to inspect the work of the AME Church in those areas and to tell the story of our interests and