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June 9, 1971
(Dictated June 6, 1971)

Rev. Benjamin J. Paroulek
Post Office Box 184
Azusa, California 91702

Dear Ben:

I will be leaving the country in a few hours, but I do want to drop this little note to you explaining my eventual absence Thursday night at the General Council meeting. I had hoped right up until the last minute to be able to get in on the end of the meeting - I am sure Chuck remembers my hope along this line - but the meeting I was in dragged out 'till 11:45 and I assumed that you were through by that time.

Today, after receiving the minutes, however, I'm wondering if perhaps you were still in session that late due to the "great length of discussion" over the Angela Davis defense fund allocation.

The "other meeting" which I was involved in was unfortunately a going away send-off for the retiring Dean of our school and since the School of World Mission faculty only has seven members it seemed to me that it would have been most disrespectful for me to have absented myself or even left early from that occasion. I regret this conflict very much.

The previous evening, however, I spent two hours with the Committee on Church Support and we spent most of our time on the Angela Davis affair, I'm afraid our committee was a little more liberal than the General Council since the consensus in our committee was that we had not sufficient grounds to doubt the wisdom of the General Assembly in merely questioning the propriety of the act and not putting any additional strings upon this agency that gave the money.

The Vice Chairman of the committee phoned in to Chuck the fact that we expect to use the full hour at the Presbytery meeting (I will still be out of the country) and he will in general be taking my place at that meeting of Presbytery. I will not go into the details of the plans which he has in mind and which he has already discussed to some extent with Chuck,

Lest this fact escape the attention of your office, Charles Jester, whose transferral has been noted in the Council minutes, will need to be replaced on our CCS committee. In July and August both I and Conrad (Vice Chairman) will be gone and Ken

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Grant, who is our secretary, will be making the decision as to whether there is to be a July meeting or not and will be sending out the notices for the August meeting, the date of which has already been established, of course, according to our usual rule, the first Wednesday of each month.

The only other thing to report in case it had not gotten to you already, is the fact that our committee very soberly decided to use our own telephone network and to telephone all of the churches of the Presbytery Friday morning notifying them, or perhaps I should say, underlining the fact in their knowledge, that Frank Smith has available a 90 minute cassette giving the entire debate on the Angela Davis matter as it came up in General Assembly. Our committee seemed to feel fairly strongly that action and vociferous opinions ought not to be allowed in Presbytery on the part of people who have either been unwilling or unable thus far to listen to the General Assembly debate itself. My personal feeling is - and this was shared by most of the committee - that the most important thing is not what the council on church and race did, but what the General Assembly did and while it might be fairly easy to question the judgment of a small group of men it is very unlikely that 800 commissioners, ministers, and laymen would go completely wrong on an issue of this sort and anyone who wants to differ with the balanced set of actions that they take will find it a little more difficult to do so than to argue with the gift of money itself. We felt strongly that the churches of the Presbytery should be urged to schedule meetings following a Sunday morning service, perhaps, or some other convenient time in order to allow members who are interested to hear this 90 minute cassette, and that serious action could only reasonably follow that kind of hearing rather than precede it.

Many thanks for all of your faithful work.

Yours very cordially,

Ralph D. Winter

RDW:lh

cc: Conrad Von Bibra
Kenneth E. Grant