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November 5, 1948

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Dear Friend:

I am sure that you have read of the case against the Stuyvesant Town Corporation and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in New York City to require them to comply with the Fourteenth Amendment in the operation of the enormous housing project, called Stuyvesant Town, from which they are now excluding Negro applicants for tenancy.

Stuyvesant Town, which is almost completed, will house 24,000 people. It covers eighteen city blocks and it is a small city in itself. This small city was created by state and city officials in New York, for they condemned private land, a power which only the state can exercise, and they have granted Stuyvesant Town an exemption from taxes over a twenty-five year period, which will amount to \$50,000,000, the total cost of the buildings.

We believe that the restrictive covenant cases which we won in the Supreme Court last year decide this question but we are also aware that Metropolitan and Stuyvesant Town will contest this, probably to the highest court of the land. At the present time, the case is in the Appellate Division, First Department, of the New York State Supreme Court where it will be argued on November 30th.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, together with the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union, has prepared a brief which contains the main legal argument. We are anxious, however, to have as many organizations as possible, civic, welfare, and labor, join with us in presenting the case. For that purpose, Mr. Andrew Weinberger, an attorney who has worked on restrictive covenant cases, has prepared a brief for possible signature by such organizations to be submitted on their behalf as friends of the court. We are enclosing herewith a copy of this brief. It deals mainly with the moral, public policy of the State of New York and presents sociological material in support of the contention that racial residential segregation is an evil which America can ill afford.

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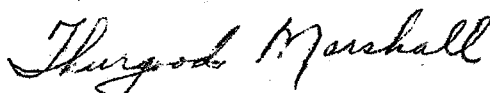
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If you have any questions concerning this brief, please feel free to ask them. We are most anxious that you fully understand the principles involved in the case.

The cost of printing the brief will amount to a relatively small sum when divided among the organizations which sign it. It cannot be fixed until it is determined how many organizations will sign but it is our hope that a sufficient number of organizations will sign to get the cost down to about \$10.00 per organization.

Since the brief must be printed before the argument of the case, we must know whether your organization will sign it no later than November 22nd.

Sincerely,



Thurgood Marshall
Special Counsel

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Enclosure