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Per memorandum Nichols to Tolson 1-19-56 reflecting telephone call from Memphis Office 1-19-56, publication of Dr. T. R. M. Howard's letter received by public very favorably.

JJC:

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Sizoo _____
 Mr. Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Holloman _____
 Miss Gandy _____

Mr. McGowan

FBI Chief Hits Negro Charges

MEMPHIS, Jan. 19 (AP).—FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover yesterday accused a Negro leader of "false and irresponsible" charges against the FBI's handling of several Mississippi racial killings.

① In a letter to Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss., president of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership, Mr. Hoover said:

"I do not propose to permit false charges made against this bureau to go unchallenged."

Reached in Los Angeles, Dr. Howard told the Memphis Commercial-Appeal he would have a full statement later on Mr. Hoover's demand that he submit evidence on his charges or publicly retract them.

Mr. Hoover particularly resented Dr. Howard's publicized statement, in regard to three recent slayings, that:

"We must find out why Southern investigators of the FBI can't seem to solve a crime where a Negro is involved."

Mr. Hoover said a full and impartial investigation was made in every case, at the direction of the Department of Justice, and the department decided civil rights were not involved.

"You seem to have conveniently forgotten the work of this bureau, which was largely responsible for the virtual elimination of lynchings in the South and also was mainly responsible for the breaking up of the Ku Klux Klan in the Carolinas and Georgia," Mr. Hoover said.

Dr. Howard is president of the National Medical Association. He heads Friendship Clinic in Mound Bayou, the Nation's only all-Negro town, located in the Mississippi Delta, about 70 miles south of Memphis.

File

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Wash. Post and Times Herald _____
 Wash. News _____
 Wash. Star P. A-5 _____
 N. Y. Herald Tribune _____
 N. Y. Mirror _____
 Daily Worker _____
 The Worker _____
 New Leader _____

62-102602

Date 1-19-56

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