

April 17, 1963

King not incommunicado, Moore says

Birmingham Police Chief Jamie Moore has said Negro integration leader Martin Luther King is not being held incommunicado at city jail.

He said King has made at least two telephone calls, one long-distance, and has talked freely with his attorneys at least twice a day since Sunday.

King, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy and other leaders of demonstrations against segregation here were arrested last Friday. Police said the two have made no attempts to post bond or otherwise secure their freedom.

Apparently no planned demonstrations were held in Birmingham Tuesday. Seven Negroes were arrested after demonstrating but the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, directing the protest campaign, said they were not planned demonstrators.

Since April 3, at least 288 persons have been jailed in the demonstrations.

FIFTEEN NEGRO women, led by the Rev. Henry Crawford, were arrested a half block from the Negro church where they started a march toward the courthouse today.

Avowedly marching to register to vote, they were charged with parading without a permit.

Chief Moore and Capt. Glenn V. Evans halted the group near the church at Sixth Avenue and 16th Street North.

Captain Evans asked Crawford if he were aware of a city ordinance and Circuit Court injunction prohibiting such a march.

Crawford answered, "Yes, sir," and the marchers were placed in police wagons and taken to City Jail.

MAKING A SPOT check in larger city jails in the North and East, The Associated Press indicates inmates in Birmingham have more opportunities for communications with the outside world.

Negroes have charged they have little opportunity to make outside contacts at the jail here.

The check showed:

Birmingham: An inmate may make one telephone call to anyone for any type of business before convicted. Police also allow other telephone calls to attorneys or clergymen at the discretion of the jail warden. The inmate may have visitors—attorneys, relatives or friends—one day a week. Inmates also may sign a card allowing censorship of letters and write and receive any number.

Atlanta: An inmate may make a free telephone call to a clergyman or attorney when arrested, and, if eligible for bond, may call friends or relatives. Prisoners are limited to a reasonable number of free calls. The only visitors allowed are clergymen or attorneys, or in the case of a youthful offender, parents are allowed.

CHICAGO: Inmates are not permitted to make telephone calls, but social workers will handle any emergency calls to families. The inmate can send one letter at county expense. Thereafter, inmates can send and receive mail at their own expense. All mail is censored.

New York: An arrested person is permitted to make a free telephone call to notify family or friends. If the person is unable to reach anyone, the Department of Correction provides a stamped letter. No additional telephone calls, either in or out, are permitted. A prisoner awaiting court disposition of a case is allowed to have visitors for nights a week.

Washington: Police allow at least one telephone call to family or an attorney. After being taken to city jail, the person in custody is not allowed to make calls, but jail authorities will make a reasonable number to anyone who may be able to help the inmate.