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February 25, 1963

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.
563 Johnson Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta 12, Georgia

Dear Mrs. King:

Since the application of your son, Martin Luther King III, was the first formal Negro application in the history of The Lovett School, it was necessary for me to consult the Admissions Committee of the Board of Trustees. The by-laws of the Institution are quite explicit in stating that admissions policies are set by the Board.

Due consideration was given this matter, including a full meeting of the Board of Trustees. It was decided at that meeting that under present circumstances, it is not advisable to accept this application for testing. I am returning your check, therefore, in compliance with the Board's directive.

I apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced pending the decision of the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely yours,

The Reverend James R. McDowell
Headmaster

JRM/f
Encl.

Admissions Policy Statement

The Lovett School is an independent, autonomous institution, free of any outside ecclesiastical jurisdiction whatsoever. As such it reserves the right to ascertain the admissions policy. No effort is made, however, to deny the Christian orientation of the School's program, nor the roots from which it stems. To do so would be immoral and less than forthright.

Under existing circumstances, it is deemed inadvisable by the Board of Trustees to integrate the school. Immediate or hasty action would result in serious injustice to the School, the student body, and any Negro student who was admitted. In the final analysis, the development of the mental, moral, social and spiritual well-being of the student is the ultimate concern.

THE LOVETT SCHOOL
4075 Paces Ferry Road, N.W.
Atlanta 5, Georgia

Admissions Policy Statement

No sensible, thoughtful citizen of the United States to-day can deny the fact of integration in our social structure. The church, the government, the schools and a myriad of other agencies have spoken boldly and forthrightly on the matter. It is the pattern of the future. No institution, including The Lovett School, can avoid its responsibilities and obligations in this area.

The policy stated herein takes full cognizance of these facts. It is the result of careful, extended and prayerful consideration of the issue as it relates to the admissions policy of The Lovett School. It is a realistic appraisal of the present status of the school with due regard being given to all facets of a very difficult problem. The policy, therefore, reflects first, the welfare and social adjustment of the Negro student himself, and secondly, it attempts to see the whole issue in light of the present circumstances at the school.

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It is deemed inadvisable by the Board of Trustees and the Administration to integrate the school at the present time. Immediate or hasty action would result in serious injustice to the young Negro student who was admitted. In the final analysis, the moral, social and spiritual well-being of the student is the ultimate concern. This is a point frequently disregarded by those who seek ends without meditating on the depth of the possible hurt imposed on "one of these little ones".

When in the opinion of the Trustees and the administration, the school is ready for integration, it will take place. The contemplated plan is to accept qualified Negro youngsters on the Nursery level. It is the intention of such a plan to have these qualified children grow with us from the earliest possible age, as free from bias and prejudice as we can possibly make it.

Some will be disappointed by this policy, others will be pleased. It is hoped that all will see the sincerity and unembellished truth of the situation at this present time and the direction in which the policy is moving in the future.