

July 11, 1968

Dear Mr Schou:

I write to you as to the President of the Nobel Prize Committee, joining my voice and pleas to those others who are speaking up in favor of Vinoba Bhave as a worthy recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Indeed such an award would be eminently appropriate in a year when the Gandhi centenary is being celebrated. It would also be most appropriate in a time of special violence, since Vinoba Bhave is a most outstanding example of the non-violent resolution of deep social conflicts. Such an award granted to this person of world fame as an example of dedication to peace would undoubtedly encourage those who still struggle against the tide of violence that seems to grow from year to year. It might also show, by implication, that the work and sacrifice of Dr Martin Luther King, (another disciple of Gandhi) were not in vain.

With these thoughts in mind I strongly recommend this great man for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Cordially yours,

Thomas Merton.