August 3, 1998

Federal Bureau of Investigation
New York Field Office
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278
Attn: Legal Department

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the provisions of the Freedom Of Information Act, I would like to request copies of all files in your office relating to Abraham Johannes Muste (aka A.J. Muste).

A.J. Muste was born in Zierikzee, The Netherlands, on January 8, 1885. He emigrated to the United States with his parents, Adriana (Jonker) and Martin Muste, in January 1891 and settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He attended Hope College in Holland, Michigan from 1902 to 1905. After a brief residence in Orange City, Iowa, Muste moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1906 to study for the ministry at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He was ordained in the Dutch Reformed Church of America in 1909; married Anna Huizenga and took up residence in New York City as minister to the Fort Washington Collegiate Church.

In 1915 Muste left New York to serve as minister of the Central Congregational Church in Newtonville, Massachusetts. In 1918 after briefly moving to Providence, Rhode Island, Muste moved to Boston, Massachusetts. I am unsure of how long Reverend Muste resided in Boston, but he took up residence in Katonah, New York in 1921 as director of the Brookwood Labor College. He remained at Katonah until 1933, when he moved again to New York City. After this time he served as minister at the Presbyterian Labor Temple and Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, along with many voluntary positions. He authored two books, Nonviolence in An Aggressive World (Harper & Brothers, 1940) and Not By Might (Harper & Brothers, 1947).

Reverend Muste resided primarily in New York until his death on February 11, 1967.

Please provide copies of all reports, memorandums and documents available which pertain to Abraham Johannes Muste. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely in peace,

Murray Rosenblith
Executive Director