

Dr. King to Lead Fall Pilgrimage To the Holy Land

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. announced yesterday that he would lead an interracial, though predominantly Negro, pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November.

The Israeli and Jordanian Governments, he said, have promised their cooperation to make the pilgrimage a success.

Dr. King emphasized that the pilgrimage could have no political significance and no relationship to his peace campaign. The aim, he said, will be to give the participants a spiritual, cultural and educational experience.

He said that the pilgrimage was being sponsored mainly by church groups throughout the United States and that people from other countries would probably join.

Dr. King announced the plan at a news conference at the Overseas Press Club.

He said he would speak twice in the Holy Land. His first speech will be given Nov. 14 on the Mount of Olives in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem. Two days later he will speak at the Tsema Ampitheater by the Sea of Galilee in Israel.

In denying that there were any political implications in the planned pilgrimage, Dr. King said: "I must always remind people that I am first a minister of the Gospel."

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