

Statement of Robert Moses,  
Director, Mississippi Summer Project  
and the Council of Federated Organizations

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Tougaloo College  
Tougaloo, Mississippi

Representative staff and volunteer workers from thirty major project sites of the Mississippi Summer Project from across the state have met for three days to map plans for continuation of Freedom Schools and community centers, and intensification of voter registration drives.

Over 200 summer volunteers have elected to remain in the state into the fall and winter months. About 65 SNCC staff and about 30 (?) CORE staff will continue in their present capacities. Other volunteer workers are committed to return at end of a school term or similar period.

Plans for the summer as announced last spring called for a project which would lay the foundation for enlarged activity by COFO for some time to come. Response from Mississippi Negroes and volunteer workers was beyond our expectation. At the request of the Negro community throughout the state, Freedom Schools will be continued into the fall and winter months although they were initially slated to run six weeks. The Freedom Schools and community centers will be increasingly combined into what will be called "Freedom Centers".

The project has been eminently successful in one of its goals in particular: the development of local leadership and staff who will help sustain projects which received a starting boost from the efforts of about 1,000 participants in the summer project.

Voter registration drives will be increased across the state. Campaigns will be intensified in Panola and Tallahatchie Counties where recent court orders have opened new possibilities for work, and in other counties where legal relief appears imminent. Also under consideration during the three day meeting were such new efforts as mobile libraries in rural areas, strengthening of the citizens band radio security system, development of permanent community center facilities, an adult literacy program specially designed by SNCC for the Black Belt, and increased utilization of assistance offered by legal, religious and medical groups. Sponsoring agencies have indicated the voluntary support of professional groups will continue, in some cases expanding.