

STATEMENT OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PEACE GROUPS, MEETING IN CLEVELAND, OHIO, SEPTEMBER 11, 1966

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During the past week, the Police Department of Atlanta, Georgia, armed with shotguns and tear gas, brutally quashed a demonstration by black citizens of Atlanta. These people were outraged by the coldblooded shooting of one of their neighbors, Harold Prother, by a white policeman. Through the exercise of their constitutional rights, they were attempting to make their voice heard in a decision concerning the savage conduct of the police in their own community. Unsatisfied with merely gassing and beating the demonstrators, the city administration made a series of political arrests, including that of Stokely Carmichael, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

In the midst of the arrests, the Vice-President of the United States called the mayor of Atlanta to express approbation of the city's action. Mr. Humphrey's statement amounted to an approval of a domestic parallel to American foreign policy: in Vietnam the United States suppresses revolution by napalm and then casts the blame for the resultant devastation upon those who are attempting to determine for themselves their own form of government. At home, in a similar ironic manner, the culpability for "inciting a riot" is placed not upon the white policeman who pulled the trigger, but upon Stokely Carmichael, who courageously stands for self-determination for the people of Vietnam and for the black people of the United States.

We demand that Mayor Ivan Allen, his subordinates and the National Administration immediately release Mr. Carmichael and the seventy odd others arrested with him, and drop all charges. They all should issue a public apology both to him and to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Stokely Carmichael was arrested because white power has set out to destroy SNCC for its advocacy of the rights of all peoples throughout the world.

The responsibility for his arrest and imprisonment rests not only with the city of Atlanta and the Johnson administration, but also with those who engineered the Philadelphia and Detroit slanders on SNCC, with those Congressmen who have personally vilified Mr. Carmichael on the House floor, with a biased press, and with a public which has contributed to the anti-SNCC hysteria. We strongly urge all Americans to express solidarity with SNCC and Stokely Carmichael by sending wires to Mayor Allen, and contributions to SNCC toward bond for those arrested.

Address telegrams to: Mayor Ivan Allen  
City Hall

with a copy to:

Atlanta, Georgia  
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee  
360 Nelson Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30313  
(404) 688-0331