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Statement by Stokely Carmichael, SNCC Chairman

### CHURCH BOMBINGS: THE AMERICAN WAY OF RACISM

The bombing and burning of black churches in the American south has become one of the traditional methods used by white racists to show their contempt and hatred of black people who dare to protest the inhuman degradation and humiliation to which we have been constantly subjected for the past 400 years. That this method has the approval of white America and its power structure is best exemplified by the continued refusal of the federal government, F.B.I., and state and local police authorities to deal with this situation and make even minimal efforts to apprehend the perpetrators of such atrocities and bring them to justice. White America's approval and attitude is best summed up in the recent Saturday Evening Post editorial of September 10, 1966 which concluded with the following statement: "We are all, let's face it, Mississippians." The voice of White Power, "American white Power," spoke then and is still speaking.

This past week-end saw a new outbreak of church bombings which occurred in Lowndes County, Alabama, the same "Bloody Lowndes" county where Viola Liuzzo and Rev. Jonathan Daniels were murdered. On Sunday morning, a renovated church which had been rented to the Lowndes County Christian Movement for the Anti-Poverty program, burned to the ground--destroying the building, equipment, and materials. As usual, the FBI made a routine investigation and "took notes." The Macedonian Baptist Church in Fort Deposit, Alabama was burned early Monday morning following a mass meeting held on Sunday night by the Lowndes County Christian Movement. Whites had warned black residents in that area for some time that they would burn the church if it was used for such meetings--and they did. Again, the FBI is making a routine investigation and is "taking notes." White Power is addressing itself to the situation the same way it has done for the past 400 years.

We in SNCC recognize that what is now taking place in this nation is a repeat performance of Reconstruction, and this, coupled with the ouster of Adam Clayton Powell from the White American Congress proves to us that White America is tightening its noose around the necks of black people here just as she is doing in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This fact is also becoming clear and evident to black people across the nation, as proven by the rebellions breaking out in all American cities, and the unifying surge of support which black people from all walks of life are giving to Congressman Powell.

Our black brothers and sisters are now saying the only way they can "We have had enough, we will take no more. We have not forgotten 400 years of genocide--murders, lynchings, bombings and burnings, and we know that White America has no intention or desire to change the American way of racism." Black people are now serving notice that we will fight back. The bombing of our churches and homes will only unify us more, and make us more determined than ever to fight back.