MEMORANDUM

TO: Director, Sovereignty Commission

FROM: Fulton Tutor, Investigator

SUBJECT: Poor People's March, Grenada, Mississippi

This march was ordered by SCLC from national level. It was first supposed to start on June 2. The leader in Mississippi is R. B. Cottonreader. Cottonreader started making speeches throughout the delta counties ten days prior to June 2 trying to get enough people to march.

On Sunday, June 8, several strange Negroes arrived by bus in Grenada. On Monday, June 9, they started gathering at a Negro church in Grenada just off Highway 51. At 12:25 P.M. they left the church with the number of 77 in the march. They had a Carl Carson rental truck with two toilets and three water coolers and boxes of supplies on the truck. When they went out of the city limits the number had dropped to 64. Of this number at least 20 were under 15 years of age. The marchers are supposed to go to Governor Williams and ask for more welfare and then go to Washington.

The FBI, state investigators from Highway Patrol, Army intelligence, City police and I covered the march. After the marchers left the city limits of Grenada they were not escorted by any law enforcement personnel.

News reporters were not there to give them any publicity and no one paid them any attention.

In my opinion the march was a failure. There were only eight local Negroes in the march.

FT/ea

June 12, 1969