

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS GATHER AT EASTER SNCC CONFERENCE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, APRIL 10 -- Students from every Southern state and many Northern campuses gathered here this weekend to chart new directions in the student movement at the third annual Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's conference.

Students heard a keynote address by the Rev. C. T. Vivien, leader of anti-segregation protests in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Rev. Vivien spoke on the conference's theme, "Emancipation Then -- Freedom Now."

Workshops were held on the concepts of Southern influence on national politics, non-violence, the history of Negro protests, and sociological analyses of the power structure.

Ruby Doris Smith, conference coordinator, welcomed Dick Gregory, famed comedian, on Sunday, April 14, after he had returned from several days leading voter registration marches in Greenwood, Mississippi.

Staff members from Mississippi, recently imprisoned in Greenwood, brought several Mississippi citizens with them to tell of the progress of the state-wide voter registration program. Robert Moses, director of SNCC's Mississippi project, gave an interpretation of the events in Mississippi and described statewide changes since the program began in the summer of 1961.

James Forman, executive secretary, also imprisoned for a week in Greenwood, welcomed the students and urged them to "spearhead drives against segregation wherever you are. We are ready to do all in our power to help you."