

Cambridge

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CNAC HEAD ANSWERS KENNEDY CRITICISM

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND, July 18-- The head of the anti-segregation group that has been coordinating demonstrations here today expressed "deep shock and concern" at a statement by United States President John F. Kennedy criticising protests here. "They (in Cambridge) have almost lost sight of what demonstrations are about" Kennedy told a Washington, D. C. news conference yesterday.

Mrs. Gloria Richardson, head of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee and affiliate of the Atlanta-based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, said in a Telegram to Kennedy: "The demands of the Negro citizens of Cambridge have been, and will remain desegregation of public and private facilities, merit employment for Negroes, and the release of two juveniles from a juvenile home.

Mrs. Richardson told Kennedy in the telegram that three bi-racial groups had failed in attempts to negotiate a settlement in Cambridge.

"The only solution to the racial crises in Cambridge," she said, "is the achievement of equal rights for the 4000 Negroes of the community."

Mrs. Richardson; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee chairman John Lewis; SNCC field staffer Reginald Robinson; and Stanley Branch and Philip Savage of the NAACP attended a meeting yesterday with Maryland's Attorney General, Thomas Finan.

Finan suggested that the demonstrators meet with a three-member arbitration committee appointed by Governor J. Millard Tawes.

Mrs. Richardson also sent a telegram to Tawes, requesting "executive clemency" for Dinez White, 15; and Dwight Cromwell, 16; jailed June 6 here after they participated in a series of demonstrations.

Meanwhile, 500 National Guardsmen remain on duty here. They were called in to maintain order after whites began attacking demonstrators and violence broke out in the wake of anti-segregation demonstrations here.