SNCC HEAD PROTESTS BRUTALITY IN AMERICUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA, August 14 -- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
sent a telegram today to the Justice Department protesting police brutality
and the use of exorbitant bonds against demonstrators in Americus, Georgia,
Friday, August 9.

The protest, sent to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy by SNCC chair-
man John Lewis, cited the use of billy clubs and electric prod poles on juven-
iles and older men. It also stated that four of the demonstrators required
stitches to close their wounds.

The demonstrators were protesting the arrest of three SNCC staff members
who were beaten and then held on $43 thousand dollars bail each.

The telegram asked, "Will the Justice Department act to free the jailed
demonstrators and see that those who substitute savage bestiality for human
decency are punished?"

More than 175 Negroes, most of them teen-agers, left a local church
to march to the police station. The police intercepted their walk as they
crossed a field in a double line and the City Marshall and Chief Chambliss of
the city police asked them for a parade permit. Before the demonstrators
could respond police officers began clubbing them and using the electric prod
poles. Several demonstrators have severe burn marks on their bodies from the
battery-operated poles.

Many of the demonstrators are still being held in the city jail. The
male juveniles are being detained in an abandoned building.

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