

DANVILLE HALTS TRIAL TRANSFERS

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, - Authorities in Danville, Virginia have abandoned the most controversial part of their massive legal attack on Negro protest demonstrations.

Danville's Corporation Court Judge Archibald Aiken has rescinded his order requiring 125 Negro defendants to be tried in out-of-town courts, some as far away as 150 miles from Danville.

Judge Aiken has been a figure of controversy in the Danville protests. He was seen on a street there wearing a revolver during anti-segregation protests, last June.

The charge was learned this week by the defendants and their lawyers when a brief was filed by the city here with the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth District, which had heard arguments on the legality of the city's anti-protest moves.

The five-judge Appeals Court heard arguments September 23 on the Negroes' appeals from the decision of District Judge Thomas J. Michie.

Judge Michie refused to strike down Judge Aiken's demonstration ban, upheld the city's anti-picketing rule, and refused to grant an injunction against the Virginia Employment Commission, accused of stopping welfare checks to jailed demonstrators.

The United States Department of Justice and the American Civil Liberties Union were granted leave to file briefs supporting the Negroes' position.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an Atlanta based student anti-segregation group, has been active in Danville since movement leaders there issued a call to SNCC for aid on June 8. SNCC Chariman John Lewis said Danville's racial situation is intensified "by examples of the worst police brutality in any Southern city, including Birmingham.