

Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee  
306 Main Street  
Cambridge, Md.  
AC 8- 4366

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, May 16, P.M.

Re: Cambridge Direct Action

Saturday, May 11- Four students were arrested this afternoon when they sat-in at the Recreational Center, a local segregated bowling alley. The four were released in the custody of their parents that evening.

Monday, May 13- Fifteen students were again arrested protesting discrimination at the Recreation Center and Dizzyland, a restaurant. The protestors were threatened with high-pressure hoses if they continued singing freedom songs -- they continued to sing.

Tuesday, May 14- Nine more residents were arrested sitting in at the Rec. Center and Dizzyland. Twelve of the fourteen arrested Monday sat in at the Dorset Theater. They were arrested, and dragged through the mud to awaiting police cars. That night over sixty citizens of the Negro community marched around the jail, singing "We Shall Overcome". They remained defiant in the face of constant police harassment. The police, using Birmingham tactics, threatened to release a menacing dog. Forty-five of these people were then arrested.

Wednesday, May 15- The police arrested nine more students sitting in. Again the police were unnecessarily rough with the peaceful demonstrators. Later that evening over 150 residents of the Cambridge Negro community were stoned and harassed during a march to Dorchester County Jail in protest of the illegal arrests of students during the last three days. As the demonstrators returned to the Negro District at about 10:30 P.M. two white Cambridge policemen drove up and said a youth had complained he had been hit by a rock while driving past the block. A Negro officer had been on duty there most of the evening. When the white officers advanced on the crowd in attempt to break it up, they were met with jeers from the Negroes. The policeman drew his pistol and place his thumb on its hammer. Seeing the gun the Negroes began shouting, "Don't move, make 'em shoot you." The second policeman pulled out his pistol as a crowd began gathering around the two white officers. It was at this point that the police chief came on the scene and told the officers to leave.

Thursday, May 16- Preliminary hearings for the jailed adults will be held this afternoon. CNAC plans to picket the Court House in protest of the illegal arrests. The executive committee of CNAC announced today that "This freedom struggle will continue until every man may live and work in dignity and freedom."