

NEWS RELEASE

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SNCC SUPPORTS MULTI-CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOL BOYCOTT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA--The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) announced its support of a planned multi-city boycott of schools.

John Lewis, SNCC Chairman, said the anti-segregation group would "support and aid" efforts to call attention to "a serious crisis in the nation's schools."

As many as five cities may join in the boycott, called to protest overcrowding and segregation in Negro schools.

Representatives from Atlanta, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, and Philadelphia met in New York last weekend to plan for the boycott. A similar boycott in Chicago last year involved 250,000 students who left their classrooms for a day and attended "Freedom Schools."

Lewis' statement read:

"The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) announces its support of a planned, multi-city boycott of schools. This boycott, like the Freedom Day Boycott in Chicago last year, should serve to remind the nation as well as local school boards across the country that conditions in Negro schools, North and South, are still separate and unequal, as they have been since and before the Supreme Court's 1954 decision, ten long years ago.

"Decent education is basic to our struggle. We are jimcrowed first in the classroom, in the first and second grades where overcrowding and poor facilities conspire to rob us of jobs and other opportunities in later life.

"Whether racial imbalance - the polite term for segregation - or simply the reluctance of school officials to admit and correct the deplorable conditions that exist in the nation's schools is at fault, this situation must be remedied.

"We call upon all Americans and all groups working to improve America to join with us and other sponsoring organizations to make the multi-city boycott a successful demonstration of Negro discontent."