

Council of Federated Organizations (COFO)

1017 Lynch Street
Jackson, Mississippi

Jackson--Aug. 8--Officials of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) described today as "completely without foundation" reports that the Mississippi Summer Project will be abandoned on August 24.

Commenting on an article by William L. Chaze, in the Clarion-Ledger, a COFO spokesman said that not only will the project continue, but that a large number of volunteers who had originally been scheduled to return to school this Fall have asked to remain. Still other volunteers are applying now to work in Mississippi, and in at least one project covering an area of six cities, every volunteer is committed to stay through the fall and winter months or has decided to return after completing college work. Eighty new volunteers entered project sites last week, while some left, as planned, to return to college.

In addition, sponsoring agencies have indicated that the voluntary assistance of lawyers, doctors and clergymen will be provided on a continuing basis.

Also untrue, the COFO office said, is the attribution of statements regarding the close of the Project to the "Jackson office of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee."

SNCC maintains no office in Jackson, COFO indicated, but like the other organizations which make up the Council of Federated Organizations, has provided some staff to help man the operation.

The Council of Federated Organizations is a coalition of locally-based Negro organizations, staffed by SNCC and CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), with the assistance of SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference), and some branches of the State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.