

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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SNCC WORKER ASKS THAT SELMA BE "OFF  
LIMITS" FOR AIRMEN

SELMA, ALABAMA - A Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) worker has asked United States Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to place "the majority of Selma establishments off limits" to personnel at Craig Air Force Base here.

In a letter to Secretary McNamara, SNCC Alabama Project Director John Love detailed testimony from Negro Airmen stationed at the base about incidents of segregation and discrimination they encountered in Selma.

The base commander, Colonel Richard Ault, had refused an earlier request from SNCC to place segregated establishments in Selma off limits in September, 1963.

At that time, Colonel Ault told SNCC worker Worth Long, who made the request, that the Air Force could only act when segregation of Air Force personnel was involved. Long's complaint had mentioned segregation of local citizens only.

In his letter to McNamara, SNCC Project Director Love asked the Secretary of Defense to act under his July 10, 1964 Equal Opportunity directive.

The directive said, in part:

"It is and will be a continuing responsibility for all commanders to foster equal treatment for every serviceman."

Love asked McNamara to "move with dispatch" in securing equal treatment in Selma for Negro Airmen from the base. Copies of Love's letter were sent to President Lyndon B. Johnson and the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has been working on a voter registration drive in Selma and surrounding counties since February, 1963.