FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREEDOM DAY MARCH IN MISSISSIPPI, CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S

Canton, Miss., April 1-- The Freedom Day march on March 30, in which 54 Negroes marched to the courthouse and filled out voter registration applications, was a peaceful contrast to the first one held a year ago in which belted police auxiliaries mounted a shotgun guard along the entire line of march.

On that occasion, marchers arriving from out of town were halted by a barricade of city police, while sheriffs and deputies from Madison as well as surrounding counties patrolled the streets in white prow cars. Only six Negroes got inside the courthouse to fill out the forms. Two days later all seven local CORE staff members were arrested in connection with a school boycott.

"This year, very few police were on hand, and there were no attempts at intimidation," reports CORE Task Force Worker George Raymond. He said that the next local action will be a thorough testing of public accommodations.

The day before the march, a memorial service was held for Jimmie Jackson, Rev. James Reeb and Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, the three murder victims of the recent Selma crisis. All the Negro stores and one white store responded to pleas to remain closed during the service.

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