

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
814 STATE STREET
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SNCC ASKS INVESTIGATION OF KILLING,
BEATING OF VIET NAM BOUND NEGRO GI

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - The Atlanta-based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has asked the United States Department of Justice to "investigate and prosecute" the persons responsible for the killing of a Negro man and the beating of a Negro soldier en route to Viet Nam, in Rolling Fork and Blanton, Mississippi.

The shooting and beating occurred April 27th in Blanton. Mrs. Unita Blackwell, an active member of the Freedom Democratic Party, reported that 61-year-old James Smarts, a local Negro, was shot and killed by Money Montgomery, a local white man. Mrs. Blackwell said Montgomery shot Smarts in the hip and stomach **when the elderly** man asked to borrow money from Montgomery.

The beating occurred April 28th when a Rolling Fork policeman beat Jimney Lee Matthews, an asthma victim, ^(who) left his automobile after the policeman halted him. The incident was reported to Matthews' draft board, who reported they were helpless to aid him.

A telegram from SNCC here asked the Justice Department to "investigate and prosecute those responsible for these senseless acts and to insure they do not occur again."

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SNCC CONFAB SET FOR ATLANTA

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - A three-day conference of Southern College students sponsored by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) hopes to attract more than 250 students here this weekend.

The conference, scheduled for April 29, 30 and May 1, will be held on the campus of Gammon Theological Seminary here.

College students from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee and North and South Carolina are expected.

Featured speakers will be Dr. St. Clair Drake, Chairman of the Department of Sociology at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Miss Ella Baker, an adviser to SNCC and staff member of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, and Julian Bond, SNCC Communications Director and Representative-elect to the Georgia House of Representatives.

The Conference hopes to introduce SNCC's current and summer program to college students and recruit workers for summer projects.

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