

## FACT SHEET ON SNCC

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC, also referred to verbally as "Snick") grew out of the spontaneous student sit-in movement which began in February 1960.

SNCC was formally organized in October of that year in Atlanta, Georgia, its permanent headquarters. (For the 1964 Summer Project, headquarters have been moved to Greenwood, Mississippi.)

John Lewis is Chairman of SNCC; James Forman is Executive Secretary. SNCC has approximately 150 field secretaries, most of whom are young Negro student leaders who work for subsistence salaries and live in the community.

SNCC's distinguishing characteristic is its "grass roots" policy; it aims primarily to develop indigenous leadership in southern communities. Main activities have been voter registration (in hard core areas of the Deep South) and direct action. SNCC is not a membership organization.

This summer, SNCC is concentrating on Mississippi although its activities will continue in Alabama, Arkansas and Georgia. SNCC's work in Mississippi (mainly in the Delta) dates back to July 1961 when it began a voter registration project in McComb. After a year, SNCC drafted a plan for a "council of federated organizations" -- a coalition of local civic groups in Mississippi. One climax of SNCC's work in the state came with the Freedom Vote Campaign of fall 1963, when a local Negro leader ran for Governor in a "mock election." Some 85,000 unregistered Negroes came out to vote for him, thereby showing that apathy was not the reason for failure to register. It was also at this time that SNCC invited other civil rights organizations (CORE, SCLC, the state NAACP) to unite their efforts in Mississippi behind the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO.)

In the fall of 1964, four Negro candidates will appear on the ballot -- this time in a real election. Voter registration will be the main goal of the Mississippi Summer Project. That project is being coordinated with COFO. Director of the Mississippi Summer Project, and of COFO, is Robert Moses of SNCC.

For further information -

Contact the COMMUNICATIONS SECTION at:

6 Raymond Street, N.W.  
Atlanta 14, Georgia

(404) 688-0331

708 Avenue N  
Greenwood, Mississippi

(601) 453-9931