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CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA PROTEST ESCALATES

Bogalusa, Louisiana, July 15, 1965---Nine days of dramatic marches and increasing racial tension mark this small southeastern Louisiana city. CORE, through its partner local organization, the Bogalusa Civic and Voters League, has brought the focus of the civil rights movement to bear in Bogalusa, which has a record of unfulfilled promises and outright Ku Klux Klan terrorism.

The EVL-CORE demands, which cover a wide range of civic grievances by the Negro community, have been currently rejected out-of-hand by both the city and state administrations, despite the fact that substantive agreement was reached on virtually all issues less than two months ago.

Immediately following the conciliation agreements reached in May, Klan terrorism and infiltration of civic government reached its peak with the killing of Negro Deputy Sheriff O'Neal Moore---a homicide directly attributable to the agreement reached by EVL-CORE and Mayor Jesse Cutrer to hire Negro Policemen. Other agreements, now in the wastebasket, included the closing of open sewage ditches, the installation of adequate street lighting, improved postal services, etc.

James Farmer, CORE National Director, has applauded the EVL rejection of Governor McKeithen's "30 day cooling off period" as an effort to "take from the Negroes of Bogalusa their only weapon---protest---without granting or even establishing machinery to grant, a single Negro grievance." Mr. Farmer said the protests will continue and added that efforts are being made to involve President Lyndon Johnson and the federal government in this critical confrontation.
