

Mississippi Recommendations.

Following the July 30 - August 2 visit of Ed Metzler and Edger Stoesz, in the company of Albert Gaedderts and Titus Bender, it is recommended;

1. That MCC respond to the needs present in Mississippi which in terms of human suffering and tension are without equal in the United States and comparable to the needs in many foreign countries.
2. That MCC efforts be concentrated somewhere in the area known as the Delta.
3. That a decision on the specific location be made later this fall when
 - a) The National Council of Churches project in the Delta will be better defined.
 - b) The summer civil rights workers will have left and the potential response of given communities can be better evaluated.
 - c) The decision can be made more deliberately with the counsel of other informed persons.

Tentatively it was felt that the towns of Itta Bena and Cleveland, where MCC supplies were distributed in winter, should be considered. In making such a selection preference should be given to a town with intense need where resistance may already have been lessened due to previous efforts and where MCC efforts would not duplicate those put forth by civil rights organizations.

4. That the MCC response consist of:

A. SHORT TERM:

1. Distribution of material aid including specifically
 - Shoes - especially for school age children
 - Blankets
 - Warm children's clothing
 - Food supplies if Government surplus commodities not available in sufficient quantity.
2. Investigate the possible future opportunity for MDS to assist with the re-building of churches destroyed by fire (13 in Mississippi from June 20 - August 1) on the construction of community centers.
3. Medical assistances: Perhaps Mennonite physicians on a rotating basis and public health nurses.

Mississippi Recommendations, page 2

4. Self Help ϕ As much as possible even these material aid projects should be promoted on a self help basis. Perhaps service centers could be established to sew blankets and clothing.

Needed thereto will be:

- A couple for assignment from November - May
- A rented center
- A vehicle
- Material aid supplies comparable to the shipment made last winter initially.

B. LONG TERM:

The nature of the long term program will be determined by the experience of short term efforts. It is anticipated that such program will be carried out in close consultation with Mennonite interests in the South including especially Titus Bender, Harold Regier and Vincent Harding. Further recommendation is to be presented when the details become more clear.

5. That MCC Peace Section continue to work directly at the task of reconciliation and communication, such as the work of Albert Gaedderts this summer. This might be done by another special assignment or through the work of Vincent Harding and/or a white co-worker who may be appointed.