

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

TO: Chief Donald I. McNamara

DATE: 4-23-65

FROM: Charles F. Trimble

SUBJECT: Public meeting for the Friends of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating CommitteeDetails:

Information received by mail from Friends of SNCC that a public meeting would be held in the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church on 4-22-65 at 8 P.M. and a featured speaker would be James Forman, Executive-Secretary for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee from Atlanta, Georgia.

There were approximately 90-100 persons in attendance of which 47 of these were white and the remaining colored persons. The meeting was called to order by Merci Ann Wright and then turned over to Mrs. Jere Perry, Secretary to the local Friends of SNCC organization. She then introduced Forman who made a lengthy talk regarding the activities of SNCC; primarily calling for persons interested in their cause to come to Washington, D.C. this summer, after school, and work on the challenge of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation. They are hoping to seek members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party as representatives to Congress of Mississippi. He remarked several times that the authorities, both Federal and State governments, were doing nothing in the civil rights program in the southern states. He felt it was time for the Activists to push things further. He disclosed in his talk that SNCC was being branded by racists as being Communist infiltrated, which he could not deny, but that the SNCC leadership could control it.

During the question-answer period a young Negro girl asked Forman if a Communist and militant force had indeed infiltrated the SNCC ranks which he would not answer. He also called on the local people to push civil rights in the Portland area.

Persons attending and known to the writer included Rondal Snodgrass, Jefferson High School teacher; Raymond Raphael, Reed College student; and Mississippi movement participant; Lawrence Wadleigh; William Vandercook, Richard Celsi, member of Catholic Council on Human Relations; Merry K. Rowland, Rector of the Stella Maris House; Norman Haaland, subject of the subversive activity control board hearings in 1964; Dr. Robert Bonthius, Minister of Westminister Presbyterian Church and active in civil rights movement; Jerold and Carol Sweeney, parents of Dennis Sweeney, Mississippi civil rights worker and Reverend Schultz.

Also announced was that a Activists civil rights group was being formed in the Portland area but details at this time were unkown.

The foregoing report is respectfully submitted for your information.