

NAACP Here Asks Housing Fund Halt

By ALEX COFFIN

The local unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asked the federal government Friday to cut off funds for Atlanta housing and urban renewal projects until "discriminatory practices" are ceased.

The NAACP also called on the city to adopt an "open occupancy" ordinance.

The NAACP charged that if racial strife because of "disproportionate location of these public housing units" erupts this summer, it will be because of the "impervious attitude of Mayor Ivan Allen Jr.

The association said that it asked Allen for a conference on March 21 and hasn't had a reply.

Allen produced a carbon copy of a letter, dated March 23, in answer to the NAACP request, which was sent by Dr. A. M. Davis, president of the local NAACP branch.

Allen's letter said he would be glad to meet with Davis, but suggested the NAACP leader should first get additional information on the local public housing plans.

"The invitation still stands," Allen said Friday.

Davis said Friday afternoon he has not gotten the letter.

The NAACP said that 83 per cent of Atlanta's public housing is on the west side of the city and none is in the northeast.

"This example of racial segregation is indeed appalling," the association said.

Allen did not attend two NAACP-sponsored housing conferences, to which he was invited, the charges said.

The NAACP asked Dr. Robert Weaver, secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to cut off funds to Atlanta for public housing, urban renewal and the new Model Cities Program until policies "to entrench and extend segregation" are ended.

The NAACP charged that a project under consideration in the Skipper Drive-Harwell Road-Bankhead Avenue NW area would "further saturate the already saturated area."

Davis lives at 592 Waterford Drive NW, which connects with

Skipper Drive. "That might influence his position," the mayor said.

Allen said that the NAACP by contacting HUD "before becoming conversant with all locations" being investigated might "jeopardize additional low-income units here. I hope they (the NAACP) are not going to obstruct the city's efforts," he said.

Allen admitted the public housing began on a segregated basis and that no units are in the northeast area, but added that "major strides" are being made and that some 80 acres throughout the city are potential sites for low-income housing.