

The thoughtful and responsible Negro citizens of Atlanta deplore and oppose the use of violence and condemn those who incite to riot. It was unfortunate that an officer, in the pursuit of his duty, shot a man, but that incident was no sufficient ground for Stokely Carmichael and his organization to go into the community and incite the people to riot. It is shameful that his irresponsible action resulted in injury to innocent children and when looked at, it did nothing to correct or to solve any of the problems which the community faces. We call upon the responsible members of the Summerhill area to assume leadership and not to allow SNCC to use them as pawns in any nefarious plot they may have to destroy the city.

Atlanta is not by far a perfect city. Yet it is too good to be destroyed by simple minded bigots. Our work must be to build the city, not to wreck it.

We believe in demonstrations and in protests. But we are unalterably opposed to violence. So we ask our citizens all over the city to refrain from cooperating with those who would make you the tools and victims of violence. Violence is not the way to rectify the wrongs done Negro people for centuries. If we Negroes are going to resort to the techniques of violence and brutalities so long used against us, then we are no better than they who have so abused us.