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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

An Analysis

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

The death of Martin Luther KING, Jr., the lack of a dynamic leader to replace him, the weather and poor timing may cause the Poor People's Campaign to possibly end with Solidarity Day on 19 June without the high degree of violence that had been feared. The stimulating force (the students), which the Campaign appears to have been dependent upon, may not be as strong as hoped for simply because by 19 June school will be out and consequently the students may lack the cohesiveness there may have been if such a rally had been held during the school year.

This is not to say however that there will not be agitation within the next 2 1/2 weeks. The FBI has reported that anti-war groups are forming in Washington, D. C. to coordinate anti-war groups coming to Washington for Solidarity Day. The Worker, in its May 21st issue, has made a strong appeal for another anti-war demonstration saying that there has not been any activity in the U. S. since April and that another "peace drive" is urgent. It complains that since the Paris talks have begun the North Vietnamese alone have had to carry the burden of pressing for an end of the war in Viet Nam.

Stoney COOKS, SCLC Coordinator of Campus and Student Activities, has visited a number of colleges in an effort to have students participate in the Poor People's Campaign. It has been estimated that 5,000 students will arrive in Washington during the next two weeks. 500 students are reported to have already arrived. SCLC efforts to form a Poor People's University in which the students will participate, utilizing the facilities of five area colleges (Howard, American, Georgetown, George Washington and Catholic), ran into a snag last week. Thus far only Howard and American Universities have agreed to provide classroom facilities but not dormitory space to house the students. This effort still persists however. This week the Rev. Walter E. FAUNTROY, Chairman of the Washington City Council and local SCLC head, appealed to the presidents of Washington universities to reconsider their position.

The potential for violence in Washington, D. C. will depend upon the success that the Communists and Black Militants have in their united effort. It is felt, however, that if violence occurs, it will center around the war in Viet Nam rather than around any efforts the poor people may make to better their plight.