

March 13, 1961

CORE - Congress of Racial Equality
38 Park Row, New York 38, New York
COrtlandt 7-0035

FREEDOM RIDE, 1961 - preliminary draft

Freedom Ride, 1961, sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality, will be a dramatic move to complete the integration of bus service and accommodations in the Deep South. The Ride will begin in Washington, D. C. about May 1 and end in New Orleans on May 17. Traveling via Greyhound and Trailways, a highly trained and dedicated interracial group of CORE members will challenge the Jim Crow patterns wherever they are met.

This Freedom Ride will dramatize the recent Supreme Court decision banning segregation of inter-state passengers in lunchroom facilities operated as an integral part of a bus terminal. We will challenge every form of segregation met by the bus passenger. In this highly dramatic nonviolent action project we plan to inspire local nonviolent action against all aspects of the segregated society. Along the way we will make numerous overnight stops and speak before interested college and civic groups.

Freedom Ride will be preceded by a short training session in Washington. Each participant will be committed to a strict adherence to nonviolent discipline. Participants must be willing to accept threats, violence and jail sentences.

The proposed itinerary is Washington, D. C.; Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia; Greensboro and Charlotte, North Carolina; Rock Hill and Sumter, South Carolina; Augusta and Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Cost for Freedom Ride, 1961, will be borne by CORE. Participants will need to pay only incidental expenses. The number of participants will be very limited!

If you are interested in joining this important civil rights project, contact immediately:

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