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**Justice Dept. to Guard
Inmates' Civil Rights**

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Justice Department said today it has set up a special unit designed to protect the civil rights of the nation's institutional inmates in non-criminal matters.

A spokesman said the new unit already has taken jurisdiction in two cases alleging racial discrimination filed before its creation on Sept. 9.

The two cases involve a department charge of cruel and inhuman treatment as well as segregation in the Mississippi State Prison at Parchman. The other concerns a court suit charging segregation of inmates at the Wyandotte County jail in Kansas City, Kan.

Jesse H. Queen, 48, director of the new unit, said its

creation was not linked to the uprising at the state prison in Attica, N.Y., where 42 died, or the controversy at San Quentin prison in California, where six were killed last month.

Although Queen said his group will stress prison reform more than has been done in the past, it also will seek to resolve complaints of segregated facilities, discrimination in hiring or other noncriminal matters relative to civil rights violations in hospitals, orphanages or other institutions.

Queen said the order setting up his unit in the department's Civil Rights Division was signed the same day the Attica rebellion began last week. Queen's group began operations yesterday.