

Black School Heads Urged To Meet on University Killing

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Howard University President James E. Cheek said yesterday that the underlying cause of conflict at Southern University was that the predominantly black Louisiana school was governed by whites.

Cheek called for an emergency meeting of black college presidents to discuss the shooting last Thursday of two students at the school, and he offered Howard as a meeting place.

With about 1,500 black area college students assembled at Howard to discuss the ideological implications of the Southern shooting, Cheek said the events at the Baton Rouge, La., institution had implications for all black colleges.

Cheek said he noted with "disbelief and bewilderment" the fact that black colleges in Louisiana are administered by an all-white board of education that also has responsibility for the state's public schools.

"In a situation such as that which appears to surround Southern University, where black participation in governing the affairs of a predominantly black institution is neither desired nor accommodated," Cheek said, "and where black educators charged with administration and teaching are tyrannized, either overtly or covertly by their white 'superiors,' one should expect an already angry, alienated and disaffected black youth to become

more angry, more alienated and more disaffected.

"No black educator involved in black higher education can stand mute in the face of such circumstances, for one recognizes in circumstances such as these the ingredients for that kind of student unrest and protest that lead easily to confrontation, and ultimately to tragedy," Cheek said.

The emergency meeting Cheek called for would not only "review the tragedy at Southern, but also would consider ways to mobilize black educational leadership to make our collective voice heard and our views known about the problems, issues and future of our institutions."

In a 10-page statement of his thoughts on Southern, Cheek also said the only way to preserve "the black presence in American higher education" is through black control and black management of the schools, and with resources comparable to those available to white schools.

At the 2½-hour student session at Howard, for which Cheek granted Howard students time off from classes, students raised more than \$800 in "defense money" for Southern students and heard two members of Students United, an umbrella organization of Southern campus groups, give their account of the events that precipitated the shooting.

They also heard local black activists, most themselves students, discuss the implications of the Southern events on their role as college students.

The students were told that the schools were training them to function in America's job-oriented society, rather than training the students to align themselves with the black working class, the black unemployed and the black welfare recipients to effect social change.

"You can make it if you try," said Donald Isaac, head of the Washington Area Black Collegé Coalition, "what does that say about us making it?"

Isaac repeated his call for a citywide strike on area campuses beginning next Monday, but Cheek said that "no representation" had been made to him of such a strike and that Howard would be open Monday.

At the University of Maryland, a proposed campus-wide boycott of classes called by the Student Government Association and the 2,000-member Black Student Union was only sparsely observed, with most students attending classes as usual.