

PANEL ON RIGHTS WILL MEET TODAY

SEP 17 1971

Session in Attica to Center
on Plans to Serve Inmates

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The five-man panel set up to protect the rights of inmates of the Attica Correctional Facility will meet at 9 A.M. today in Attica to discuss procedures for carrying out its assignment.

Presiding Justice Harry D. Goldman of the Appellate Division's Fourth Department, who appointed the panel at the request of Governor Rockefeller, said the Governor had assured him that the panel would be given "full and unencumbered access to prisoners and prison facilities."

Justice Goldman said he would not be a member of the panel himself. "Judges are not experts on penology," he said in ruling out himself and other members of the judiciary.

Clarence Jones, a panel member who is publisher of The New York Amsterdam News, the Harlem-based weekly newspaper, said the panel would have to be given "the capacity to set up round-the-clock monitoring of treatment of inmates" in order to be effective.

"We must also be sure that we as a group have the trust and confidence of the inmates," he said. "We can't do much without it."

Robert P. Patterson, a lawyer who was president of the Legal Aid Society here for a four-year up to last March, said that several of the panel members would meet each other for the first time in Attica.

The three other members of the panel are Donald H. Goff, general secretary of the Correctional association of New York; Austin H. McCormick, executive director of the Osborne Association, which works for correctional improvement, and Luis Nunez, executive director of Aspira of America, Inc., an educational and leadership organization of the Puerto Rican community.

Justice Goldman said that the five members would choose a chairman from among themselves. They were all chosen, he said, because of their interest and experience in penal reform.