

# Mitchell Bids Police 'Keep Their Cool'

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By United Press International

WASHINGTON, May 21—Attorney General John N. Mitchell warned the nation's law enforcement officers today to "keep their cool" in civil disorders.

Following a two-day inspection in Jackson, Miss., where two Negro youths were shot to death by highway patrolmen, Mr. Mitchell issued a statement that said he was stepping up Justice Department investigations into the shootings at Jackson; Kent, Ohio, and Augusta, Ga.

"I would remind all law enforcement agencies, whether they be local police, state police or National Guardsmen, that the first requirement of professional law enforcement officers is the protection of the

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# Mitchell Urges Nation's Police To 'Keep Their Cool' in Unrest

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public," the Attorney General said.

"One can recognize the provocations which often accompany civil disorders," he continued, "but trained law enforcement personnel have a responsibility to keep their cool and to utilize only such minimum force as is required to protect the safety of the general public, the bystanders and themselves."

"In each of these three tragic incidents, we are dealing with situations involving the actions of local or state law enforcement personnel," he said.

In addition to the two youths slain at Jackson State College, four Kent State university students were killed by National Guardsmen during an antiwar protest on the university camp and six Negroes were shot during racial disorders in Augusta.

"On the basis of what I learned in Jackson, and my review of the preliminary F.B.I. reports on Jackson, Kent and Augusta," Mr. Mitchell said,

"I am determined to find out at the earliest possible moment whether there have been criminal violations of Federal laws." Federal civil rights laws make

it a crime for anyone "acting under color of law"—such as a policeman or a judge—to interfere with a person's civil rights.

Mr. Mitchell said he had directed Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard to take charge of the three investigations and to give them top priority. He said that Mr. Leonard, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, could have whatever manpower it took to get the facts.

Mr. Leonard has added a team of Justice Department lawyers to each investigation in addition to the "very substantial" number of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents already taking part in each one, Mr. Mitchell said.

"In addition to the legal questions involved," Mr. Mitchell said, "we would also expect that the information developed in our investigations may be useful in the formulation of new guidelines for law enforcement agencies generally in the field of riot and crowd control.

"If so, the department will be prepared to take the lead in encouraging the promulgation and adoption of such standards at the Federal, state and local level."