

Medics, Aides Fly To Cairo

By PIERRE GUILMANT

CAIRO, ILL. — Task Force I, of Chicago's Flying Black Medics, invaded this Southern Illinois river town Sunday to render help and medical aid to a besieged black ghetto.

Led by Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, a force of some 38 physicians, dentists, nurses, social workers, dietitians, biochemists and lab technician, examined and treated scores of individuals ranging from infants to senior citizens.

Medical facilities of Cairo's hospitals and medical centers have been virtually closed to blacks since March when the Cairo United Front began its boycott of white merchants.

According to United Front, Director Rev. Charles Koen, St. Mary's Hospital, for example, has refused to accept black emergency cases by demanding payment in advance. This move by the hospital has necessitated taking blacks to hospitals as far away as Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Activities of the Flying Black Medics in Cairo and the possibility of a black medical center opening through their efforts, have elicited a concerned interest from some local facilities, according to Koen. "They know that if we are able to open such a facility, the hospital may as well close its doors."

The racially torn levy town has been the scene of countless shootings since last March. Law and order have been variously enforced by vigilantes, local and state police.

However, according to the black community, police efforts have been oppressive to the ghetto.

Scores of state police cars were on view at the Cairo town limits. Several more were to be seen at a motel adjacent to the black community commanded by the state. While the Cairo police station sits at the opposite end of the ghetto one gets the feeling of being surrounded.

Rev. Koen and his United Fronters contend the feeling is a fact. Included in the Flying Black Medics Task Force were, Dr. Berry, Dr. Jasper Williams, Mrs. Lillie General, Dr. Maurice Herbert, Mrs. Emma F. Berry, Mrs. Dooty Chambers, Dr. Jerry Coleman, Dr. Audley Connor, Jr., Rene Crosby, Patricia Danzie, Arkansas Doyle, Arnita Foster, Donald Gater, Fern Gayden Ephrim Greer, Delores Guinart, Jaunita Harris, Bettye Jenkins, Dr. Howard Lee, and Dr. Audley Mamby, and Dr. Kermit Mehlinger, Beverly Maxwell, Dr. Gamelie Parsons, Mariana Pollard, Dr. Maurice Rabb, Ralston Reid, Mare Robinson, Bettye Smith, Dr. Carol Smith, Lorraine Smith, Dr. Andrew Thomas, Dorothy Thomas, Dr. Charles Thompkins, Dr. Luis Torriente, Richard W. Ward, Jr. Charles Lee Williams and Rose Mary Wilson.

The task force conference on health was held in cooperation with the AME Ministerial Alliance of Chicago, Cairo Black Community Leaders and Ward Chapel AME Church of Cairo.



Cairo United Front leader the Rev. Charles Koen (left) talks with Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, who led a delegation of medics and professionals to help blacks in Cairo, Ill. (Photo for the Daily Defender by Jim Brown.)

Gus Savage Joins Call For School Investigation

By JEAN TUREAUD

Chicago blacks' demands for a probe into violence and unrest in the city's schools grew over the weekend as Southside publisher Augustus Savage joined the chorus of protest.

Agreeing to weekend demands for the investigation, Savage, however, told the Daily Defender, "Such a probe must be accompanied by action based upon what we already know to be some of the major problems in our school system.

The Organization of Southwest Communities (Savage is past president of the group) has researched the problems of the Southside schools. We have files filled with information, data gathered over several years,

which have never been acted upon except in a meaningless way by school officials."

Savage, an independent contender for Illinois' third district congressional seat, said OSC records indicate much of the in-school violence stems from a system totally "irrelevant to the black male student."

"The present image of a white woman as authority in the system must be replaced with a black male image. More black male principals must be found and distributed throughout the system if the black male youth is to remain in school.

"Valedictorians are seldom accused of