

2

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE CHICAGO SCHOOL CASE

- Q. On July 21 of this year, the Civil Rights Division filed a brief which strongly criticized the Chicago School Board's desegregation plan, yet on August 28 your Department filed a Joint Statement with the Board in which you stated that the Board's planning Principles "are consistent with the requirements . . . of the Constitution" (Joint Statement, page 6). Doesn't the Joint Statement represent a 180-degree turnaround from your original position?
- A. No, it does not. The Joint Statement says that "[t]he concerns raised by the United States have been resolved at this stage of the case . . . by clarifications as to how the Board understands and is implementing the Principles . . . [and] by undertaking to address [these concerns] in its planning activities this fall" (page 4) The Joint Statement makes it clear that we have not accepted or rejected a desegregation plan; rather, we have advanced criticisms about the planning process, which the Board is now dealing with. No determination on the acceptability of the School Board's final plan can or will be made until that plan has been completed in December and presented to us for review.