

'March Against Death' Begun By Thousands in Washington

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WASHINGTON, Friday, Nov. 14—Antiwar demonstrators began a symbolic, single-file "March Against Death" last night that will send a continued stream of protesters past the White House and into a park across the street from the Capitol until tomorrow morning.

The march began at 6 o'clock under heavy skies and in near-freezing temperature on the Virginia side of the Memorial Bridge, near the gates of Arlington National Cemetery. The route took the marchers around the Lincoln Memorial to the White House and then to Union Square Park across from the Capitol.

The first marchers arrived at the White House at 7:18 P.M. They reached the Capitol at

8:39. A steady rain started later last night and continued in the early morning.

It was the first of three days of protests planned by the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The activities are to culminate in a mass rally tomorrow afternoon at the Washington Monument.

Earlier yesterday, in a separate demonstration not planned by the Mobilization Committee, 186 persons, including several clergymen, were arrested as they attempted to observe an "Ecumenical Mass for Peace" at the Pentagon.

And, as the first busloads of demonstrators began to arrive in the capital, the Mayor of

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ANTIWAR PROTESTERS MARCH PAST WHITE HOUSE: Participants in the "March Against Death," each representing a man killed in the Vietnam war, carrying candles—and in one case a bedroll—in walk that began in Arlington, Va.

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Washington, Walter E. Washington, and the police chief, Jerry Wilson, expressed confidence that the weekend would be peaceful.

The participants in the March Against Death, most of them of student age, but among them a number of middle-aged men and women and priests in clerical collars, wound to the Memorial Bridge up the banks of the Potomac from a group of tents about 300 yards away. As the march began, only a snake-like line of candles was visible against the dark banks of the river.

Six drummers played a death roll at the head of the march. The first marcher was Mrs. Judy Droz, a diminutive 23-year-old brunette, the mother of a 10-month-old girl. Mrs. Droz's husband, Lieut. Donald G. Droz, was killed in Vietnam last April. She wore a placard bearing his name around her neck.

She said she had come to Washington from Columbia, Mo., to "express my feelings and those of my late husband that the United States should get out of Vietnam immediately."

"There is no light at the end of the tunnel, only the darkness that came over my husband," she said before the march began.

Other Survivors

Mrs. Droz was followed by more than a dozen other close relatives of servicemen killed in the war. They included Mrs. Anne Balsam of Staten Island, whose brother, Pfc. Walter L. Nutt 3d, was also killed in April; Mrs. Elba Iris D'Jong of Yonkers, who lost a son and a nephew in Vietnam this year, and Mrs. Robert Crawford Ransom Sr. of Bronxville, N. Y., whose son was killed in 1968. Mrs. Ransom was followed by her husband and her five living sons.

Among the others at the head of the march were Dr. Benjamin Spock and the Rev. William Sloane Coffin Jr., leaders of the antiwar movement.

The organizers of the march limited it to 46,000 persons, each carrying a sign with the name of an American killed in the war or a Vietnamese village said to have been destroyed by American troops.

The marchers walked on sidewalks, stopped for traffic lights and obeyed other traffic regulations.

As each marcher reached the White House, he called out the name on his placard. Then he continued down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol and deposited his placard in one of 40 black, wooden coffins.

As she arrived at the west gate of the White House, Mrs. Droz spoke her husband's name in a normal tone of voice. Mrs. Balsam, right behind her, shouted her brother's name.

Grouped by States

Following the lead section of close relatives of war victims, the marchers were grouped by states, each state delegation equaling the number of servicemen from the state who had been killed in Vietnam as of Oct. 15.

California, for instance, had 3,705 persons in its contingent, which marched across the Potomac in the early evening. Alaska's delegation had 29.

The contingents from most of the states along the Eastern Seaboard were completely filled with persons who had traveled to Washington from those states. Delegations from other states were completed with "proxies," who were mostly students from the District of Columbia and nearby states.

Six states sent no one to the march, and their delegations were composed entirely of proxies. These states were Ala-

bama, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Utah.

Only a few persons arrived from the other distant states for the march. For the Middle Western states, from 40 to 70 per cent of the marchers were proxies.

To insure a continuous line of march, each state was assigned a starting time. Representatives of New York City and its suburbs are to begin marching at midnight. Upstate New York protesters are scheduled to start at 4 A.M. tomorrow.

The total New York delegation contains 2,804 persons, second in size to California's.

The New Jersey contingent contains 1,020, Connecticut's 412.

The March Against Death was conceived at the New Mobilization Committee's organizational meeting in Cleveland on the Fourth of July weekend. It is an extension of the reading of the war dead, which has become a popular protest tactic in the last year.

The march proceeded without conflict or serious incident, but logistical problems arose soon after it started.

Portable sanitation facilities were late arriving at the Arlington starting point. To ease the situation, the march headquarters made provision for makeshift privies.

At the Pentagon demonstration two Episcopal bishops and Roman Catholic and Episcopal priests had led nearly 250 worshipers about halfway through the 1 P.M. Ecumenical Mass For Peace before the General Services Administration began the arrests. The demonstrators were charged with violating regulations of the G.S.A., which sets regulations for all Government buildings and has its own police force.

Onlookers Hostile

The friendly cooperation between the police and demonstrators was in marked contrast to the hostility shown the worshipers by Pentagon onlookers who jeered during prayers and applauded when the police moved in.

About 150 worshipers followed the arrested clergymen to a downstairs bus lane, where assistant United States attorneys were waiting to speed arrest processing, as prearranged.

One priest told the demonstrators to make two single-file lines for easy processing.

The Rev. Nathaniel W. Pierce, an Episcopal priest, one of the organizers of the mass, went over to R. Kenly Webster, deputy general counsel of the Army, and shook his hand, saying, "That was great. I almost kissed you. It was great press."

Mr. Webster was the first Government official to approach the worshipers in the concourse to read them a warning that they would be subject to arrest if they did not leave.

The incident was typical of the arrangements that demonstrators and the Government had worked out in advance to make the demonstration, arrests and processing as swift and painless as possible.

After the demonstrators were each photographed with a guard, they were loaded on chartered buses and taken to the United States Magistrates Court in Alexandria, Va., where they posted \$25 collateral and were then released.

Lawyers of the American Civil Liberties Union were at the Pentagon to speed the processing, and some organizers carried extra cash to post for those who did not have their own collateral.

Episcopal priests from New York who were arrested included the Rev. Clarke Oler, Holy Trinity Church, 316 East 88th Street; the Rev. Rowland Cox, chaplain of General Theological Seminary; the Rev. Fritz Creamer, assistant rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, 2 East 90th Street, and the Rev. Hap Warren, curate of St. James Church, Madison Avenue and 74th Street.

The peace mass was sponsored by the Catholic Peace Fellowship, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation, Washington.

Performing the mass were two Episcopal bishops, Edward Crowther of Washington and Daniel Corrigan of Rochester; two priests, the Rev. John White of Roxbury, Mass., a Catholic, and the Rev. Nathaniel Pierce of New York, an Episcopalian, and two other Protestants, the Rev. Malcolm Boyd and the Rev. Ian Mitchell.

Meanwhile, the first demonstrators began to arrive for the rally Saturday. Among them were a small number of servicemen in their regular uniforms with a special shoulder patch representing the G.I. antiwar movement. The patch was a three-inch white circle emblazoned in red with a clenched fist.

By evening, nearly all of the 9,000 military personnel sent for security had arrived in the capital. Most of them are quartered at Bolling Air Force Base and the Old Soldiers Home. Other units were assigned to Anacostia Naval Station, Fort McNair and Fort Myer.