

Government Will Permit a Peaceful Rally

Demonstration Leaders Accept Site on H Street

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM
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WASHINGTON, May 7—Government officials privately assured today the organizers of the antiwar demonstration scheduled here for Saturday that a rally on H Street, separated from the White House by Lafayette Park, would be allowed to go on as long as it remained peaceful.

The leaders of the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam professed publicly to be annoyed that they could not demonstrate closer to the front of the White House. But one of them indicated that H Street was acceptable, saying "it's all ironed out now."

Government spokesmen meanwhile repeated their public position that the Washington Monument Grounds were a preferable site for the rally. Walter W. Washington, the Mayor of Washington, toured the Monument Grounds today, and the city began to erect a speakers stand and install sound equipment, even though the protest leaders say they will not be used.

The officials expressed confidence that, with the White House and Lafayette Park across the street, cordoned off and inaccessible, the rally on H Street near 16th could be controlled.

The mobilization committee says that it is expecting 30,000 persons to come to Washington for the demonstration, and the city police reported that they considered this to be as accurate as any estimate.

But the demonstration was organized so hurriedly — no plans were made before President Nixon's speech on Cambodia last Thursday — that both

the police and the demonstrators believe the 30,000 figure is little more than a guess.

There are many here, including some in the Government and many in the peace movement, such as Charles Palmer, president of the National Student Association, who expect a much larger turnout. More than 250,000 were at the rally at the Washington Monument last November, a demonstration that followed months of planning.

The haste with which the plans are now being made has surprised Government officials.

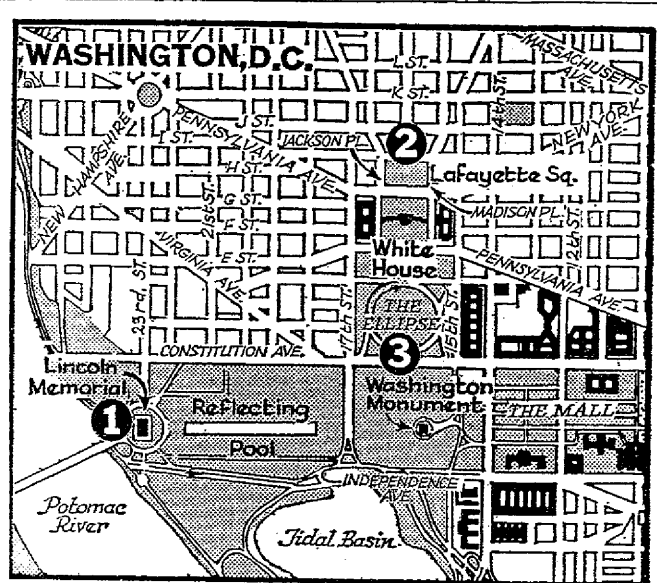
A Government spokesman said: "Before we knew how many buses were coming, where they were going to park, where people were going to be housed, what kinds of people were coming. We don't know any of this today."

As a result, security operations were far from completed today, and officials from the Justice, Defense and Interior Departments, the city and other agencies met throughout the day.

Weekend days off have been canceled for District of Columbia policemen and other local policemen. All members of the District National Guard will be training in armories this weekend, but the Guard has not yet received a request to be on the street.

A Pentagon spokesman said that there had been "appropriate precautionary planning" for possible use of troops in connection with the demonstration but that as of today no units had been alerted to duty.

At a news conference this morning, David Dellinger and Rennie C. Davis, who were defendants in the Chicago con-



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RALLYING POINTS: Washington demonstrators arrive tomorrow at Lincoln Memorial (1) and hold rally near Lafayette Park (2). U.S. originally proposed the site at (3).

spiracy trial and who are among the best known radicals in the country, said they had informed their followers that the rally would be nonviolent.

Mr. Davis said there was a new understanding that demonstrations had to be disciplined to be effective and that breaking windows and rampaging was "not the way to achieve revolutionary change."

Mr. Dellinger said that the demonstrators would be here "on business more serious than fun and games with the police, than sideshow violence, than trashing[breaking] windows."

While the mobilization committee leaders appeared to be sincere in their desire to avoid violence, no responsible spokesman was willing to predict that peace could be maintained throughout.

A student organizer who asked not to be identified said: "There are always crazies. We don't even know sometimes who they are. The question is not whether they will be here

but whether we can contain them."

A dozen Democratic members of Congress had signed a statement by late this afternoon supporting the demonstrations and saying that they would be at the rally. They included Representatives Benjamin S. Rosenthal of Queens, William F. Ryan of Manhattan and Frank Thompson Jr. of New Jersey.

At this morning's news conference, Ron Young, the chief organizer of the rally said that the protest issues were broader than the war in Vietnam and Cambodia. The issues included, he said, the Nixon Administration's "repression" of Negroes and its statements on students and youth.

Mr. Young said that the speakers at the rally would include Dr. Benjamin Spock; David Hilliard, chief of staff of the Black Panthers, and Mrs. Johnnie Tillmon, national chairman of the National Welfare Rights Organization.