

U.S. Drops Charge In Mayday Case

By B.D. Gamm
Washington Post Staff Writer

The government moved in D.C. Superior Court yesterday to drop long-standing assault charges against Mayday case leader Bradford Lyttle rather than provide Lyttle with transcripts of all evidence gained by wiretapping.

The government was ordered last week to make the choice by Judge Theodore Newman after the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional all wiretapping of domestic groups in national security cases without a court order.

Newman's order was believed to be the first such ruling following the Supreme Court decision.

The government said in papers submitted to Newman yesterday afternoon that allowing Lyttle to see transcripts of the

wiretap evidence would "prejudice the national interest." Lyttle was charged with assaulting a police officer with a bullhorn during the 1971 Mayday antiwar demonstration.

Newman told the government to produce the evidence to support the charges. The government's charges is that Lyttle had been in contact with a person who had information that would be helpful to the government.

The government said Lyttle was overheard on several national security electronic surveillance, two of which might have been the prohibition of the Supreme Court decision.

Two previous indictments of the 44-year-old New Yorker were dismissed on technicalities.