

Camping Out at Pentagon

By Stuart Auerbach
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Peace protesters walked once around the walls of the Pentagon yesterday but they failed to tumble down.

Denied access to the nerve center of the United States armed forces the demonstrators set up camp complete with sleeping bags, pillows, box lunches and buckets of drinking water—on the portico of the Pentagon's river entrance.

Assistant Defense Secretary Phil Goulding said the demonstrators would be allowed to camp outside the Pentagon since they are breaking no laws.

Carried Out

More than 15 of them had been carried from the Pentagon corridors yesterday morning by General Service Administration guards under a regulation forbidding "unwarranted loitering, sleeping or assembly" in Government buildings. The demonstrators had been permitted earlier to spend 29 hours outside the entrance to the super-secret war room of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Pentagon officials gave up the soft-sell approach Wednesday night and guards evicted 18 demonstrators. They were permitted to re-enter the building at 7:30 a.m. yesterday

only to be tossed out again 3 hours later.

Blocked at the river entrance by more than 30 guards, the demonstrators decided to try every door along the one-mile perimeter of the Pentagon.

Blunder Down Ramp

They blundered down a ramp reserved for taxis and buses and walked up a flight of stairs leading to the shop-filled concourse. But guards blocked any doors to the Pentagon proper as demonstrators approached.

At each door, the demonstrators insisted on their right to be let in. They said there could be no freedom in America if citizens were kept out of public buildings.

Some of the demonstrators attempted to set up a rally for peace in the middle of the concourse, but guards frustrated the effort by keeping the heavy lunch-hour crowd moving.

Among those kept from leaving the building while the demonstrators were trying to get inside was Gen. Wallace M. Greene, commandant of the Marine Corps. As soon as the demonstrators walked away from the door, guards assisted him to his waiting car. He paid the demonstrators no notice and the were not aware that one of the Joint Chiefs had walked by them.

On Capitol Hill, Rep.

George Andrews (D-Ala.) criticized the Pentagon for letting the demonstrators enter in the first place, and Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) complained that news media gave the protest too much coverage.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, whose office is directly above the portico where the demonstrators are camping out, had a different view. "Our Nation for 200 years has preserved the right of dissent," he said.

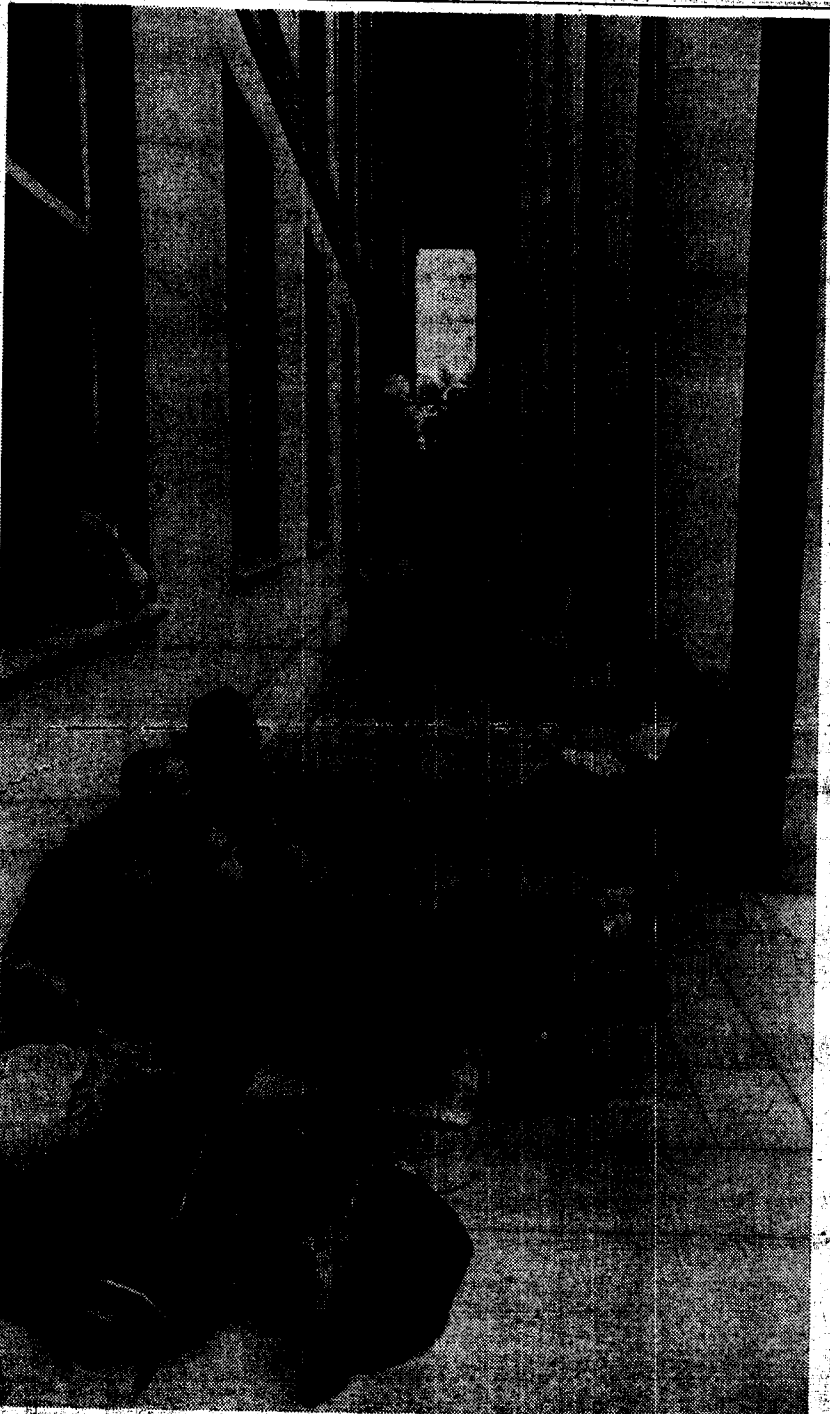
While about 16 demonstrators walked around the Pentagon, two girls set up station on the front steps. They said they wanted to open lines of communication with workers in the Pentagon.

Restroom Break

The other demonstrators said they want to stage a silent vigil protesting U.S. policy in Vietnam in the Joint Chiefs' war room.

While Dawn Leone, 20, strummed a guitar, DeCourcy Squire, 17, arranged antiwar leaflets on their sleeping bags. They had hung their extra clothes on hangers hooked into the wall of the Pentagon.

The demonstrators negotiated a restroom truce with Pentagon officials, who allowed them, one at a time, to use facilities in the concourse. Some of the demonstrators took advantage of the situation to do some shopping.



By Charles Del Vecchio—The Washington Post

Antiwar demonstrators loll on duffel and sleeping bags at Pentagon.