

Most of the Litter Gone from Prison

An Associated Press reporter was among five newsmen, a photographer and television film crew admitted to Attica State Prison yesterday for a news conference on the quelling of the riot there. Here is what he saw.

By BRIAN B. KING

ATTICA, N.Y. (AP) — The Army trucks and most of the litter are gone from the manicured lawn just inside the main gate of Attica State Prison, hit first by rioting inmates eight days ago and then by hundreds of police assault troops on Monday.

A limited look at the facility yesterday showed that only the surface had been repaired and cleaned.

Larger pieces of paper had been removed from the lawn which is banked with bright flowers. But the grass did not hide the thousands of cigarette butts and smaller bits of broken plastic foam cups.

THE ONLY other visible evidence of what happened here, now that almost all the state policemen have left, is the soot above the windows of the school building that was burned.

The sidewalks were swept, an inmate was trimming the hedges.

Guards watched from a wooden hut near the side wire

fences, a small American flag fastened to the shack's windowsill.

Inside the administration building's vestibule, where guards and investigators scurried about, two prisoners pushed cartons of debris to the outside.

The approximately 2,240 other prisoners were in their cells, officials said, having undergone medical checks. Except for meals they will be kept locked in two undamaged cellblocks for the duration of the repairs and investigation. The 1,241 inmates said to have been in the area of the rebel-held cellblock D are all inside, officials said. Whatever ringleaders still are alive "are up there somewhere" an investigator said.

IN THE GUARDS' locker room, just off the vestibule where the news conference was conducted, one of three union bulletin boards held a message to all employees from Warden Vincent Mancusi, relaying Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's words to him over the telephone the day of the retaking, when 30 inmates and nine guards were found dead.

Mancusi said Rockefeller wanted to convey "his most sincere thanks and appreciation for the magnificent joint operation of Attica Correctional Facility personnel, New York State Police, National Guardmen and other law enforcement officers in bringing to a close the tragic episode of Sept. 13, 1971, which resulted from the rebellion."