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A Peaceful Protest at Convention

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Miami Beach

About 3000 demonstrators massed peacefully outside Convention Hall as Republican delegates met inside last night several hours after an antiwar march upon a nearby National Guard bivouac area ended in a scuffle and arrests.

As dusk fell, demonstrators clustered under a soft rain in two groups of about 1500 along Washington Avenue's "protest strip" — a hibiscus-lined staging area in front of the 50-acre convention complex.

One was a group of Cuban refugees seeking to call attention to the situation in their Communist-ruled homeland. Former Cuban President Carlos Prío's voice boomed over a megaphone, "We want to tell the world that we Cubans are still rebelling and will not stop until our homeland is freed."

SCUFFLES

There were brief scuffles between some of the Cubans and members of the second group — a loose coalition of student activists, women's liberationists and protesters memorializing "Soledad Brother" George Jackson, slain a year ago at San Quentin Prison in California.

About 50 Cubans took off

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after a half-dozen Students for a Democratic Society demonstrators, chasing them down side streets. Several SDS youths were knocked down as punches were thrown, but parade marshals soon restored order.

The Cubans' flag emblazoned with white stars contrasted with the yellow-starred Viet Cong flag under which some youthful demonstrators grouped. Movie actress Jane Fonda and other anti-war activists spoke from a platform truck rented by protest groups.

ENTERED

Delegates, some of whom were jostled outside a GOP gala the night before, entered the hall unmolested by protest groups.

The Cuban demonstrators disbanded after about 45 minutes.

Police said eight young men were arrested earlier at the climax of a Vietnam Veterans Against the War march from the Flamingo Park demonstrators' campsite to Miami Beach Senior High, where some 1000 guardsmen are on standby duty.

Seven were arrested for nonforcible entry after they clambered atop a roof at the school, and an eighth, Thomas Hanifin, 27, of New York City, was charged with indecent exposure after he disrobed and cartwheeled nude — except for his brown loafers — down Washington Avenue.

SIGNS

Another scuffle, just as quickly put down, resulted when the vets confronted a group of about 30 counter-demonstrators led by the Rev. Carl McIntyre, a conservative radio preacher. A handful of vets snatched three signs from the McIntyre group and tore them up.

A third flareup, a brief fistfight, resulted in the park from an argument between Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman and a member of the Zippies, a breakaway faction of the Youth International Party.

When demonstrators marched by the hall, four busloads of policemen held in reserve at the site replied to their chants by beating nightsticks in cadence on the floors of the vehicles.

ABREAST

Another group of protesters marched 15-abreast up Meridian avenue from the park toward Convention Hall, led by a barechested youth carrying a huge ragdoll effigy of evangelist Billy Graham.

Tied to the doll was a sign reading, "Billy Graham, crucified for conspiring with Nixon and lying."

A panel of senior citizens and young people convened a mock court near Convention Hall to "investigate" the Nixon administration. About 150 people attended and heard a parade of protesters, including Miss Fonda, criticize the government for "genocide" in Vietnam.