ostages Killed

.om Front Page

aid, with prisoners
apons, making booby
g up electrically charged
and spreading gasoline.

decision to attack was made . "extreme reluctance," Oswald .aid.

"It became apparent to me that further delays would jeopardize the lives of hostages and would threaten the prison system of the state."

As several hundred state police with rifles and shotguns poured into the prison in western New York State, two National Guard helicopters flew overhead dropping tear gas into the exercise yard. Guard soldiers had been assembled in secret outside the prison but did not take part in the first assault.

REPORTERS STANDING outside heard shots from inside the prison and saw clouds of tear gas pouring over the walls.

One helicopter landed outside the walls, but the other continued to circle over the prison, broadcasting over a loudspeaker to the prisoners: "Place your hands over your heads and surrender to the nearest police officer. You will not be harmed."

National Guard troops, wearing gas masks and carrying rifles, rolled up outside the prison in at least 70 vehicles.

Although the first assault was staged by state police, some National Guardsmen did enter the prison.

REPORTERS SAW the rescued hostages come out the prison gate. One was clasped in a tearful embrace by his mother.

When newsmen tried to question him, bystanders shouted: "Leave them alone! Leave them alone!"

During the negotiations, such outsiders as Black Panther leader Bobby Seale, lawyer William Kunstler, and Rep. Herman Badillo, D-N.Y., were brought to the talks at the prisoners' request.

Rockefeller rejected their demand that he go to the prison. He also refused amnesty to the prisoners, saying he could not grant it legally and would not if he could.

THE GOVERNOR stood by at his office in Manhattan, postponing a scheduled flight to Puerto Rico for a governors' conference.

Kunstler accused Rockefeller of having ordered the assault, and called it a "monstrous act."

The radical lawyer said the prisoners would have given up their demand for the removal of Supt. Mancusi if they had been granted amnesty.