

SF Examiner

SEP 15 1971

Sympathy Riots

In 3 U.S. Jails

By United Press International

Guards in prisons across the nation were on alert today for action in sympathy with the Attica, N.Y., uprising. At least three jails were rocked by disturbances.

The Justice Department confirmed that it had asked state correction commissioners to watch for possible inmate rebellions. Some reports said FBI offices had given prison officials specific warnings of possible trouble.

About 60 inmates in the Fulton County jail in Atlanta staged a near-riot set off when they threw food on the floor at lunchtime and ripped out plumbing.

Officers used tear gas to break up the rampage.

"I am almost certain that they got the idea from the riot in New York," Deputy Sheriff Paul Johnson said.

An official said of the inmates' demands for a choice of music on the jail's radio system and for the use of telephones: "room service, that's what they want."

In a dining room outburst in the Baltimore city jail, inmates tried to take at least one hostage, but failed. The 180 prisoners were driven from the cafeteria by tear gas.

Deputy Warden Howard B. Parks said he believed the disturbance was planned in advance.

Deputies also used tear gas and clubs in the Cuyahoga County jail in Cleveland to

stop a rebellion. Authorities said the trouble started when a prisoner attacked a deputy and then other deputies beat the inmate.

The 1140 prisoners in the Wayne County jail in Detroit were searched for weapons after the FBI said several inmates might try to grab hostages. Guards found more than 150 small weapons.