

Japanese Leftists

Protest Against Ford Visit

Tokyo

Japan's leftists began a drive to stop the scheduled visit of President Ford here next month with massive anti-American rallies all over the nation yesterday.

The organizers, led by the Japanese Communist party, the Japanese Socialist party and the major labor unions, claimed that 2.2 million people took part in 456 demonstrations, including one of 70,000 flag-carrying and banner-waving people here in Tokyo.

Kakuo Honjo, the chair-

man of the rally held last night in Meiji Park, said in a brief interview that "we're trying to create an atmosphere or mood among the Japanese people to stop Mr. Ford from coming here." He said he did not think there would be physical violence, but the opponents of the visit are trying to generate so much vocal opposition that the President would cancel the trip himself.

The critical question is whether the leftists can build up a sustained outflow of anti-American sentiment strong enough to prevent the

President's visit, scheduled to begin November 18. With the rather lighthearted, carnival atmosphere that prevailed last night, it seemed doubtful that they had made much headway toward their objective.

The leftists, however, have their first real issue since the end of the Vietnam war, which undoubtedly accounted for the largest turnout they have had at this annual anti-war day rite in years. The issue is the alleged presence of American nuclear weapons in Japan.

The Conservatives, who

have ruled Japan steadily for a quarter century, have followed a policy of not making nuclear weapons, not acquiring them and not allowing them to come into this nation, which still bears the emotional scars of the World War II atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But recent testimony in Washington before a congressional committee by retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Gene R. La Rocque made it appear that the Japanese government had misled its people. La Rocque testified that American warships with nuclear weapons aboard regularly called at Japanese ports.

Premier Kakuei Tanaka's government has vigorously denied that nuclear weapons, if they were brought in, were allowed in with Japanese permission. There is known to be a secret "transit agreement," however, that does permit the United States to bring nuclear weapons into Japan temporarily.

At the rally here last night, speaker after speaker denounced the United States and the Tanaka government, and demanded the abrogation of Japan's security treaty with the United States and the closing of American military bases in Japan.

After the rally, the leftists streamed out of the park into demonstrations through the city, one of which wound past the Parliament Building and near the American Embassy. It was boisterous but peaceful.

In other parts of the city there were demonstrations by factions of ultra-leftist radicals. But they were far more concerned about their rivalries with each other than with the nuclear issue or Mr. Ford's visit. In any case they were controlled by special riot police, who made 11 arrests.

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