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GIs Lead D.C. Peace March

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Between 200,000 and 300,000 protesters shouting “out now, out now” jammed the slopes of Capitol Hill yesterday and roared in approval when told that only Congress — not the White House — can end America’s decade of involvement in the Indochina war.

In an antiwar demonstration unparalleled in size at least since Nov. 15, 1969, a vast throng led by active duty soldiers and bearers of the Stars and Stripes and the Viet Cong tricolor took 2½ hours to march from the Washington Monument up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol.

GIs in Forefront

The demonstrators — mostly young, white and long-haired — passed within a block of the White House grounds, but the Nixons were out of town.

Leading the way were contingents of soldiers in partial

uniform, some hobbling on crutches, some with chests full of medals.

They carried banners reading “GIs of Ft. Hood, Tex., want peace now” and “Ft. McClellan GIs — U.S. out of Asia now.”

Among the few black demonstrators was Allen Jackson Sr. of Bloomfield, Ky., whose son, Spec. 4 Garry Jackson, 29, was killed in Vietnam two years ago. His sign read: “My son killed in Vietnam. What for?”

Inclusive Audience

He told a reporter that “there is no way to bring my son back, but maybe we can save others.”

Looking over the crowd below that filled the five block-wide mall and spilled over onto the eight-laned Pennsylvania Avenue, Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) remarked over loudspeakers to the throng jammed around the Capitol:

“It looks like everybody is here today except Richard Nixon. He’s in retreat at Camp David. He’s in retreat from the American people.”

The city police headquarters held to a tentative crowd estimate of “more than 200,000.” Justice Department’s internal security division reported more than 300,000. Jerry Gordon, a leader of the sponsoring National Peace Action Coalition, said: “There might be a million people,” counting those caught in traffic.

“It’s clearly the largest antiwar demonstration in the history of America.”

While the antiwar message was the same as that preached in at least one mass march in Washington each year since 1965, the audience was probably the most inclusive of all.

A matron who said she had

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marched for peace since she protested the Spanish Civil War in 1938, viewed a "diversity here that didn't use to exist."

"The American people know, even if their President does not," said Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) from the Capitol steps, "that we have stayed too long in Vietnam and bled too much and committed too many horrors, and the time to get out is now."

Four dozen scheduled speakers mounted the platform halfway up to the west front of the Capitol. As a brilliant spring morning turned into a cool, blustery afternoon, they declared that the United States must wait no longer to get out of an Asian land war.

Various Democratic members of the House and Senate urged the crowd to support political candidates who will join their effort to impose a deadline for total U.S. withdrawal from Indochina and refuse to appropriate any more money for the war.

Harold Gibbons, international vice president of the Teamsters Union, drew lusty cheers that echoed off locked government buildings when he declared that "we must now turn to the Congress for a final solution to the Vietnam war, not the White House."

Said Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), "Unless we translate this into political action, this will be another march to an empty Capitol. Richard Nixon must go . . . Richard Nixon must go."

Mrs. Coretta King said America is in "moral outrage" and appealed for "this nation to pay tribute to my martyred husband by withdrawing all troops from Vietnam by Aug. 28, 1971, the anniversary of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech."

From the speaker's platform, Mrs. King could see in the hazy distance to the west the Lincoln Memorial, on whose steps her husband's oratory galvanized more than 200,000 demonstrators at the famed civil rights march on Washington of Aug. 28, 1963.

Mrs. King said: "Let us

declare that the war is over. Let us declare that the wars on poverty, hunger and repression are in force."

Fight with Nazis

One peace demonstrator and two members of the American Nazi Party were reported to have been arrested after a fistfight near the Pennsylvania Avenue line of march.

The most violence seen during the march was that simulated in guerrilla theater staged by Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who demonstrated the way they claim they once interrogated and tortured Vietnamese.

The week of uniformed veterans demonstrating and lobbying in Washington set a new tone for war protest that carried over into yesterday's program.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said yesterday the veterans appeal had a highly significant impact upon official Washington although they numbered only about 1000 compared to the huge march.

By the time the three-hour rally had ended, the demonstrators were overwhelmingly orderly and in good spirits. A threatened 3 p.m. "illegal demonstration" called by Students for a Democratic Society failed to materialize, as the marchers drifted back down Pennsylvania Avenue in search of food and a resting spot.

On tap for the night was a marathon rock concert at the open-air Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument grounds, lasting from 7 p.m. until dawn, and featuring such youth idols as Pete Seeger; Country Joe McDonald; Redbone; Peter, Paul and Mary; and members of the cast of the rock musical "Hair," now playing in Washington.

During the march, about 50 persons carried the red flags of revolution and Viet Cong banners and placards reading "smash imperialism — build a labor party" and bearing pictures of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky.

One contingent identified itself as the Asian Coalition of between 800 and 1000 members. Some carried the little red books of Mao Tse-tung and chanted: "One, two three, four — we don't want your racist war."