

# D.C. Police Rout Anti-War Campers

**45,000  
Surprised  
In a Park**

*Washington Post Service*

Washington

More than 2600 policemen, equipped for riots, cleared about 45,000 persons from the anti-war demonstrators' encampment at West Potomac Park early yesterday as the Government moved on the steadily growing protests against United States policy in Indochina.

The police massed along the borders of the encampment and the demonstrators' camping permit was revoked without warning, shortly before 7 a.m., just as an all night rock concert was drawing to a close.

Simultaneously, more than 10,000 federal troops were being alerted for possible street duty throughout the area.

Other policemen were stationed at key intersections in the city and the U.S. capitol, the Washington Monument, Dupont Circle and Montrose Park were sealed off to the public.



*AP Wirephoto*

**A glum anti-war protester was roused from her camp near the Lincoln Memorial**

## SURPRISE

Washington police chief Jerry V. Wilson said the element of surprise was an important factor in the move against the encampment.

Reasons given for revoking the permit were assessments by government officials that there would be a threat to the general public safety if the camp permit were to continue in effect.

"There was always the potential for trouble and (the dawn notice) had the advantage of not giving a lot of time for crowd organization," Wilson said.

Police plans were a well kept secret. Even the policemen themselves, many of whom spent the night at downtown hotels, didn't know

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their specific assignment until 5 a.m. yesterday.

### ARRESTS

Shortly before noon about 750 policemen swept through the campsite and arrested between 50 and 100 persons who refused to leave.

By nightfall, the police reported 242 arrests, mostly for "unlawful entry" or failure to move on. Most were being held for \$300 bail.

Police moved less than 24 hours before the spring "peace offensive" here was to enter its fourth and most militant stage: Attempts to "paralyze" the Federal Government by blocking key traffic arteries into the nation's capitol during morning rush hour today.

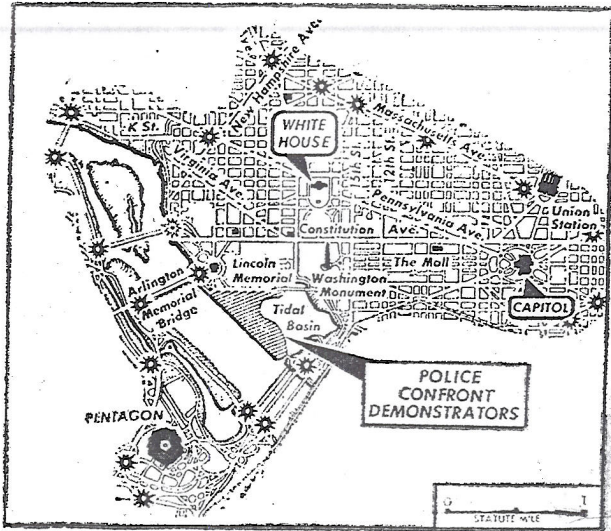
The administration, in its effort to break the back of the disruptions planned for today, caught the demonstra-

Mon., May 3, 1971



These anti-war youths left their encampment along the Potomac with an almost casual air

UPI Telephoto



AP Wirephoto

**Shaded area shows campsite**

tors gy surprise. Many of mood, remained in the capi-  
 them left for home but atal and vicinity.  
 hard-core of highly political And others regrouped else-  
 youths, who were in a bitter where in the city — at

churches, at Georgetown and George Washington universities — and went ahead with planning for traffic tie-ups at key points within the city and on the approaches this morning.

**RALLY**

Protest leader Rennie Davis called a rally for 6 a.m. today at the Washington monument ground to be followed by a march across the 14th street bridge to the Pentagon.

With the disruptions scheduled to begin at 6 a.m., the Pentagon, White House and other federal offices put out calls asking employees to be at work before 5 a.m.

Today's traffic blocking activities represent the beginning of a third consecutive week of anti-war protests here that began last month with an encampment of Vietnam Veterans Against the War on the Mall.

At one point the government won an injunction from the Supreme Court against the encampment but then declined to use it.

**MARCHES**

The veterans' protest was followed by the massive and peaceful anti-war rally here April 24 and then last week by a series of marches, picketing and sit-ins at the entrances to various federal buildings around town. More than 1000 were arrested last week.

Today's planned actions represent a new and untested tactic, according to protest leaders.

On the premise that peaceful demonstrations like the one April 24 have failed to achieve peace in Southeast Asia, leaders of today's action have said they plan to create "a level of social chaos that America's leaders will be unable to accept."

They reason that the majority of Americans favor immediate peace in Southeast Asia and contend they will blame the government not the demonstrators, for any inconvenience.

**PLANS**

Organizers of the protest allied themselves the Mayday Tribe and had planned to block traffic at 22 key intersections, bridges and traffic circles today and tomorrow morning.

Earlier, plans had called for between 1000 and 300 demonstrators at each location. But, in the wake of yesterday's clearing of the camp, some groups conceded that it was likely that all target areas could not be met.

The decision to move on the West Potomac Park campsite was made Saturday afternoon in a private meeting at the office of deputy attorney general Richard Kleindienst at the Justice Department.

Those attending included "ranking officials" of the Departments of Justice and Interior, the Pentagon and the Washington police department.