

Clashes Get Attention Abroad but Little Comment

MAY 6 1971

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Special to The New York Times

LONDON, May 5 — This week's antiwar demonstrations in Washington have attracted wide but not overwhelming attention in Europe. Press comment has been relatively muted, though with some criticism of the Washington police for their mass arrest tactics.

French newspapers have been preoccupied with news from the Middle East and Algeria, the retirement of East Germany's Communist party leader, Walter Ulbricht, and domestic affairs. The demonstrations were widely covered in the press and television but attracted little comment.

Le Monde's Washington correspondent, Jacques Amalric, wrote that the police had acted "sometimes brutally, sometimes good-naturedly." He said antiwar Congressmen, after disas-

sociating themselves from this week's demonstrators, were now critical of "the Government's excessive reaction and the massive arrests."

The French Communist paper, L'Humanite, ran the story on page three this morning with a picture of two policemen pinning a demonstrator to the ground. The caption read: "American democracy in action."

The German press has also been focusing on Mr. Ulbricht and other matters, notably the currency crisis. It has had pictures, brief news stories and almost no editorial comment on the Washington events. Italian coverage has also been routine.

British newspapers and television have given prominent treatment to the demonstrations. But again there has been relatively little comment.

The correspondents of both

The Times and The Guardian noted the police tactics, the Guardian man writing that "the rule book was thrown away." The conservative Daily Telegraph said in an editorial that President Nixon was right to say policy should not be made in the streets, but it raised a doubt as to whether he was the man to rally the country behind him.

The Soviet media gave heavy and sympathetic treatment to the demonstrators. The two main themes displayed in the Soviet press are that the Nixon Administration has no popular support for the war, and that the demonstrators were contained by sharp repression.

In Czechoslovakia, the newspaper Rude Pravo said a peaceful demonstration had been broken up "by armed force of such proportions that it looked like a saturation bombing of a Vietnamese village."