

9 Sailors Seized in Church

Took Refuge To Avoid War

SAN DIEGO — (AP) — Nine sailors were arrested at a church where they had taken sanctuary to avoid sailing to the Southeast Asia war zone. They were then quickly flown to their ship at sea.

Naval officials and antiwar spokesmen told different versions of the sailors' early morning arrest at the Roman Catholic church.

The sailors' ship, the aircraft carrier USS Constellation, left San Diego Friday after weeks of protests by antiwar groups who sought to prevent its departure, calling it a symbol of escalation of the war.

The crewmen, some of whom entered the church Wednesday, were declared deserters by officials aboard the ship after it left port.

Charges Filed

Naval officials said after the arrests however that no specific charges had been filed against them, although they noted that the Constellation's commander has authority to hold court-martial. The maximum penalty is a year in jail and a dishonorable discharge.

A Navy spokesman said the arresting officers, wearing civilian clothes, "entered the church compound, announced they were there" and called out the names of the sailors. As each man heard his name, he just walked out," the spokesman said.

The pastor of the church and protestors who said they were inside when the arrests were made said the officers entered the church sanctuary and lined occupants against the wall and searched them.

Sleep In Church

Spokesmen for both the Navy and the antiwar group agreed there were about 40 antiwar sympathizers sleeping in the church at the time of the arrests, at approximately 4:40 a.m.

The Rev. Mr. James Galias said the raid was "a violation of the moral sanctuary of the church." However, the auxiliary bishop of the San Diego Roman Catholic Diocese had warned the church it could not legally give the sanctuary.

"They never had any intention of resisting," one of the antiwar protestors said of the seamen. "They felt they just couldn't in good conscience help fight the war, but then didn't want to go underground, so this was the only way. They had planned to turn themselves in."

Flown to Ship

The sailors were first taken to North Island Naval Air Station and then flown to the Constellation more than 300 miles out in the Pacific, the Navy spokesman said.

The carrier, with 5000 men, is heading for its sixth tour of duty off Vietnam.

The sailors were identified as John D. Hoag, 18, St. Louis; Carl S. Flanagan, 22, San Diego; James A. Mickell Jr., 20, Screven, Ga.; Charles W. Andrews, 20, Greensburgh, Pa.; Darryl L. Larrabee, 20, Duluth; Ronald P. McLeod, 23, Little Rock; David N. Clay, 19, Stockton; John C. Obe, 19, Ellsworth, Iowa, and Charles M. Lawson, 21, Midlothian, Tex.