

Nov 12
**Prosecutor's
 Warning on**

Deserters
 SFXaminer

Any person who willfully conceals a military deserter is subject to prosecution for a federal crime, U.S. Attorney James Browning Jr. said here today.

And this, he said, includes the Berkeley City Council if it goes ahead with its official plan to shelter any crewmen who may go AWOL rather than sail for Vietnam with the aircraft carrier Coral Sea tomorrow.

Resolution

The council this week adopted a resolution not only endorsing the plan of 10 Bay Area churches to shelter those unwilling to fight in Vietnam, but expressing willingness to provide a facility for such sanctuary.

The resolution said "no Berkeley city employe will violate the established sanctuaries" by helping with investigations and-or arrests.

Browning said Sections 1381 and 2387 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code makes it a federal crime to aid and conceal military deserters.

The offense carries a possible penalty of \$10,000 in fines and-or 10 years in federal prison, he said.

He said he will ask for a copy of the council's resolution.

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tion to determine what violations there may be.

Their mere offer of space to conceal deserters does not necessarily violate federal law, Browning continued. But he said if any deserters are concealed in the sanctuaries he will not hesitate to prosecute the persons involved — including council members.

Meantime the Coral Sea became more and more of a storm center as a protest group called SOS (Stop Our Ship) threatened to "seal off" Alameda with some 5000 demonstrators tomorrow.

Spokesmen said they intend to block the Posey Tube and the High Street, Fruitvale Avenue and Park Street bridges, by leaving disabled autos in the traffic lanes.

How this would prevent the carrier from sailing from

Alameda Naval Air Station was not made clear.

In any event, Alameda police will try to keep the tube and bridges open, calling on neighboring police departments if necessary.

In another development, three Coral Sea officers waited formal Navy action on

their requests to resign rather than participate in the "insanity" of the war in Vietnam. The men are Lts. (j.g.) James Lanius and James Meyer, and Ens. Frank Phillips.

Meanwhile, Berkeley City Manager William Hanley said policemen are bound by

any orders by the council, he said.

Sponsors of the sanctuary plan were going ahead with preparations regardless of the official warnings.

The University Lutheran Chapel, 2425 College Ave., Berkeley, was stocked with sleeping bags and food in preparation for up to 40 defectors.

"Anyone struggling with a decision of conscience and who needs a place to do it is welcome," said Susan Ramshaw, 28, head of the chapel council. No one had applied for sanctuary, however, she said.

their oath of office to uphold all laws, and would be committing illegal acts if they refused to take part in arrests of AWOL sailors.

And Alameda County Sheriff Frank Madigan took a similar position. The oath "does not exempt anything," and takes precedence over