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PEACE NAVY? THWARTED: Antiwar demonstrators in canoes trying to delay the loading of ship at Earle Ammunitions Depot, off Leonardo, N. J.

21 Arrested in Jersey Trying to Block Loading of Munitions Ship

Special to The New York Times

MIDDLETOWN, N. J., April 23—Twenty-one antiwar demonstrators were arrested today at the Earle Naval Ammunitions Depot after they tried to delay the loading of a munitions ship believed to be bound for Vietnam.

The demonstrators were seized by Marine sentries and Middletown Township policemen almost as soon as they got onto the two-mile-long pier. They had reached the pier by climbing up jetties stonewalls to get over a barbed wire fence and were charged with trespassing on Government property.

They were part of a larger force of 35 members of a Philadelphia-based peace group, the Movement for a New Society, who walked half a mile along the beach from the state marina at Leonardo to the munitions pier, carrying protest signs.

A leader of the group, William Moyer, who teaches at Pendle Hill High School in Wallingford, Pa., said:

"We're protesting the killing of men, women and children in Vietnam and also a larger problem—our Government's policy of supporting dictators in several parts of the world and thereby frustrating the establishment of open democratic governments."

Mr. Moyer said that Richard M. Nixon was elected President in 1968 "because he proclaimed the loudest that he would end the war the quickest."

"Instead, he is now escalating the war," Mr. Moyer said. After the arrests, the other demonstrators stayed outside the fence and barbed wire,

holding signs reading "Stop the Death Ship."

At one point a locomotive pushed three tank cars along the pier, and a workman turned water from a firehose on the demonstrators. They held up their signs and shouted "We love you" as they were doused.

One demonstrator, Richard Taylor, climbed onto the pier through the stream of water and lay down in the path of the train. The police shouted to the engineer to stop the train and dragged Mr. Taylor to safety, then to a police car.

While the demonstrators tried to disrupt the loading of the U.S.S. Nitro on land, a dozen others paddled out to the end of the loading pier in canoes.

Mr. Moyer said they hoped to prevent the Nitro from leaving tomorrow with the small boat blockade, which must stay at least 500 yards from the end of the loading pier.

The peace group tried unsuccessfully last Wednesday to block the docking of the Nitro with the canoes.

Several crew members have joined the demonstration to protest conditions on board ship, not the Vietnam war. George Thompson of Watkins Glen, N.Y., an apprentice seaman with 10 months' service, was on a weekend pass and joined the demonstrators in civilian clothes.

He repeated some of the complaints about improper loading and a lack of adequate fire lanes in the hold of the Nitro that were contained on a statement circulated by the peace group and containing the names and serial numbers of 48 crew members.

Meanwhile, more than 650 student antiwar leaders from across the country called for nationwide demonstrations next Saturday and a student strike on May 4 to protest the Vietnam war. They decisively voted against an indefinite nationwide student strike.

The actions came at a day-long conference at New York University's Loeb Student Center at Washington Square. It was called by the Student Mobilization Committee which says it is the largest antiwar group in the nation with 30,000 members.

Calls for a demonstration Saturday "in every town and city in this country" and for a strike May 4 to recall the shootings at Kent, Ohio; Augusta, Ga., and Jackson, Ala., two years ago, came by a near-unanimous vote.