

FORD MUST RELEASE ANY 'MAYDAY' TAPES

NYTimes NOV 21 1974
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—A Federal judge ordered the Ford Administration today to surrender by next week any White House tape recordings involving the Government's controversial handling of the "Mayday" antiwar demonstrations here in the spring of 1971.

Judge William B. Bryant of the United States District Court here agreed last Thursday to a demand for the tapes by lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union, who are handling a class-action suit against the Government on behalf of 800 protestors arrested during a rally at the Capitol. The 800 are seeking monetary damages.

Today, the judge gave Philip W. Buchen, the White House counsel, an additional seven days to produce any recordings made between May 1 and May 5, 1971, in which the Government's response to the demonstrations was discussed.

During that period, more than 12,000 individuals were arrested but nearly all of the arrests were deemed unlawful.

A White House spokesman said today he did not know if Mr. Buchen's office would comply with the order or appeal it.

REACTION