

Reaction to Bombing Is Relatively Mild

Scattered protests, expressions of outrage and signs of a reanimated antiwar movement have surfaced here and in cities across the country this week in response to the renewed American bombing of North Vietnam.

Following a demonstration by more than 1,000 people in Times Square on Thursday night, the police were preparing for scheduled protests in Herald Square today and outside St. Patrick's Cathedral and in Washington Square Park tomorrow.

Last night, several hundred members of the Puerto Rican Student Union and the Attica Brigade staged a demonstration just south of Herald Square at 33d Street and Broadway, waving banners of the National Liberation Front and chanting: "Cease fire—Nixon's a liar." The police on hand took no action.

Demonstrations were held and scheduled in other cities, but they were small and seemingly disorganized in contrast to the high peace marches of 1970 and 1971. And while antiwar activists, officials, clergymen and editorialists have not spared harsh words in recent days, there appears to be little national momentum for renewed militancy.

With Congress in adjournment, college student populations dispersed and the country is preoccupied with Christmas bombing was sporadic and relatively mild.

4 Policemen Hurt Here

The Times Square protest was the exception rather than the rule. The protesters swarmed past police barricades and blocked Broadway at 43d Street for two hours. Four policemen were reported injured in struggles with demonstrators. Fifteen persons were arrested, two on assault charges. The police swung clubs and rode horses into the crowd several times.

More typical was the sit-in by 25 demonstrators at the United Nations on Thursday. All but four were arrested for trespass, but the protest was peaceful and the demonstrators obtained a meeting with an aide of George F. Bush, the United States representative.

Only 50 of an expected 200 demonstrators passed out antiwar leaflets outside Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts yesterday in a demonstration that fizzled amid freezing rain.

There were other small demonstrations in Boston on Tuesday and Thursday, in San Francisco yesterday and in Madison, Wis., on Wednesday. More than 50 people attended the rally at the University of Wisconsin, once one of the

focal points of antiwar militancy.

The National Peace Action Coalition in Washington announced plans yesterday for "a massive antiwar demonstration" on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20. Other antiwar groups planned to demonstrate outside the White House tomorrow night, at noon on Christmas Day and on Jan. 3 and 4 as Congress convenes.

Inauguration Day protests are also being planned by various chapters of the Peace Action Coalition in cities across the country.

A demonstration sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is scheduled for this afternoon at the entrance to President Nixon's compound on Key Biscayne in Florida. The President is spending the Christmas weekend there.

Numerous newspapers on record against the war have published editorials in recent days attacking the President and his bombing policy. The Los Angeles Times editorial cartoonist depicted Mr. Nixon as Santa Claus dropping bombs from a reindeer-drawn sled.

Editorials Assail Nixon

The Milwaukee Journal branded the bombing a "new reign of terror," and The Boston Globe said: "It is our own bombs which are reducing America itself to the Stone Age level of morality, humanity and savagery."

The San Francisco Chronicle said: "In the absence of any explanation from the President himself about the present tactics for disengaging from Vietnam, the American public and the rest of the world are obliged to fall back on not necessarily trustworthy reports from secondary sources. . . . To the underinformed American public, the news blackout invoked by the U.S. military on the new bombing phase is disquieting."

The Chicago Tribune, which has supported the President, said it was encouraged that the Administration is showing more candor and commented: "The support of a well-informed people is the President's most effective weapon in dealing with Hanoi. The doubts of an ill-informed American people, as we have seen, merely encourage intransigence in Hanoi."

The Seattle Times, the largest daily paper in the State of

Washington, said in an editorial entitled "Roadblock to Peace," that "it is apparent then, that Hanoi's unwillingness to agree on proper international supervision of a cease-fire on reasonable safeguards against a renewal of the war is a principal roadblock to peace and a cause of the intensified warfare."

An editorial writer for The Seattle Times said that only three letters of protest against the bombing had been received all week. "I guess the public is concentrating on Christmas, and doesn't even want to think about the war," he said.

Mrs. Daniel J. Doughty, a Ladysmith, Wis., woman whose husband has been a prisoner of war since 1969, said she was "still behind the President" and felt the bombing "help bring a settlement sooner."

But James Heiliger of Madison, the father of Maj. Donald L. Heiliger, who has been a prisoner of war since 1967, said: "What the President has done is rotten. I went along with him for years, but I can't go along with him anymore."