

## Miami Beach Police Get U.S. Aid

# Convention Security Readied

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The federal government has awarded the city of Miami Beach nearly \$400,000 to purchase sophisticated police equipment and to train Florida security forces for the Democratic National Convention.

The grant, quietly approved yesterday by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, will be added to \$178,313 in local funds to prevent a recurrence of riots that plagued the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago.

The project is the first of its kind by LEAA, which has the discretion to fund innovative law enforcement projects. Florida-Atlantic University will study every phase of police activity during the convention and prepare a handbook for LEAA, which will distribute it to police agencies around the nation.

Some of the newest police hardware will be bought with the LEAA grant, which includes \$228,000 for equipment. There will be night vision and optical devices, metal detection sweepers and hand devices to locate guns or bombs, 35 police helmets that contain two-way radios, a radio transmission scrambling system that will prevent unauthorized persons from monitoring police communications, a closed-circuit television system complete with TV cameras mounted on telephone poles in the vicinity of the Miami Beach Convention Hall feeding pictures back to a mobile command post.

A video tape recorder will keep a permanent record of any disturbances within the view of TV cameras, some of which will be placed in corri-

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dors and other sections of the convention hall.

In addition, federal funds will purchase 2,000 plastic handcuffs which have gained popularity among police in civil disturbances. The grant even provides for marking pens to write on the handcuffs the name of the person who has been arrested.

Also provided will be body armor, bullhorns, cameras, film and film processing equipment; 40 face shields for riot duty, 120 gas grenades, 20 gas grenade launchers, 45 portable radio transmitters and receivers, a portable fingerprinting kit, two high-intensity portable lights, a mobile command van, a 22-passenger minibus to transport police and prisoners, plus maps and graphic arts materials for the police command post.

After the July 9 convention in Florida, some of the police hardware purchased by the government will be transferred for use at the Republican National Convention, Aug. 21-25 in San Diego.

Justice Department sources said they were uncertain as to the extent of the equipment transfer until San Diego submits its own application for federal anti-crime funds, which is expected by LEAA about Nov. 15.

Justice sources said no federal funds were allocated for the purchase of "firearms, tanks or armored cars." Miami Beach officials were told they

would have to purchase such items with local or state funds.

Before final approval of the grant was made, LEAA notified Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien that it was funding the project and asked O'Brien for his comments.

O'Brien did not reply, but Richard Murphy, manager of the Democratic convention, said in a telephone interview that the party attitude was that the \$395,424 grant was "a matter between LEAA and Miami Beach." While not anticipating any trouble now, Murphy said, the Democrats will shortly name their own security committee, one of whose functions will be liaison with Miami Beach police.

He added that confidence in Miami Beach police was one of the reasons the site was chosen for the convention.

Florida Gov. Reubin Askew has placed Miami Beach Police Chief Rocky Pomerance in complete charge of convention security. Pomerance will augment his 300-man force with police from all over the state, including fish and wildlife officers, highway patrol, deputy sheriffs and police from other municipalities. Pomerance, through the governor, also will have control of Florida national guardsmen.

Although the number of police was not included in Miami Beach's application for funds, one federal official guessed there would be a policeman for each of the 3,016

delegates attending the convention.

An aide to Pomerance said in a telephone interview yesterday there has been "no particular indication at this time" of any trouble at the convention.

"We are preparing for any eventuality and anticipating nothing," said Col. Larry Cotzin. Pointing out that there were only minor difficulties at the 1968 GOP convention in Miami Beach, [there was a major disturbance on the mainland, however, in Miami] Cotzin said he expected more chance of attempts to disrupt the San Diego convention because "the party in power seems to be the target of those who want to express their opinions and vent their frustrations."

Rennie Davis, one of the leaders of the 1968 Chicago disorders, was recently quoted as saying that the radicals' "Nixon Eviction Campaign" would culminate with worldwide demonstrations at the time of the San Diego convention.

But if disrupters come to Miami Beach, Col. Cotzin said police will be prepared. Under the LEAA grant, four top Miami Beach officials are to attend the Army's civil disorders school at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Another police technician will attend bomb handling and dismantling school at the Army's Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala.

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