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Thousands protest in D.C., demand immediate end to war

'Largest gathering in protest history' assaults war policy

By Dave Smalen

Executive Editor

Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—Several hundred thousand anti-war protesters converged on the Capitol building yesterday to demand an immediate end to the war in Indochina. This demonstration, the fourth in Washington, D.C. in 18 months, was described by one speaker as "opposition to dishonest politicians and war-profiteering monopolies."

The crowd, called "the largest in the history of anti-war protests" by its organizers, assembled to take part in the scheduled three week assault on the government's war policy. Civil disobedience is planned for May 5-7.

While the demonstrations were progressing in the Capitol, President Nixon, the person to whom most of the protests were aimed, was spending the day at Camp David in Maryland.

The Washington demonstration yesterday received significantly less support from the Duke campus than the two protests in the nation's capital last year.

One possible explanation for the lack of Duke participation was the scheduling yesterday of the annual Joe College concert. The concert featured the Grateful Dead, the Beach Boys, Mountain and the Butterfield Blues Band, and was attended by over 8000 college students from across the state.

Another possible explanation is that many students at Duke are presently planning to travel to Washington for the May demonstrations and civil disobedience, and were not able to attend both rallies.

Coretta King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., called for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Indochina by Aug. 28 of this year, which would be the eighth anniversary of the civil rights march in Washington. At that time King delivered his now famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

"We have come to the Capitol building this time to appear to the Congress," said David Livingston, a union leader who is co-chairman of the rally. "We have given up on the President."

C rowd

The crowd marched from the Ellipse behind the White House to the Capitol, starting at 10 a.m. At the rally, while listening to speeches they chanted, "Peace Now," "All we are saying is give Peace a chance," "Power to the People," and "1, 2, 3, 4, we don't want your fucking war."

The demonstration was unusual in that it received support from union leaders, businessmen and several Congressmen, as well as youthful anti-war groups. The most visible group at the rally, however, was Vietnam Veterans Against the War. After a week of anti-war action, the veterans received vocal support

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Part of the more than a quarter million anti-war protesters listening to speakers at

yesterday's massive rally around the capitol building. (Photo by Diane Lubovsky)

Demonstrators march to Capitol building

By Peter Kenny
Staff Writer

Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—A mass of Vietnam war protesters, numbering up to half a million, according to the national news media, marched down Pennsylvania Ave. yesterday in what one observer called "the largest political demonstration in the history of the United States."

There were no reports of violence and only 18 arrests were made throughout the day, in spite of the massive size and unorganized nature of the crowd.

Estimates of the size of the crowd varied, as is customary in events of this nature. The most conservative estimate came from the D.C. police department, which claimed yesterday afternoon that there were 300,000 demonstrators, or 100,000 more than had been predicted Friday evening.

300,000

The Justice Department, whose figures are generally considered as official, placed the number as "in excess of 300,000" yesterday afternoon. The national news media, however, have placed the number over 400,000 and report that buses were backed up on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway all afternoon, unable to reach the demonstration in the center of the city.

Emergency parking facilities had to be established at R.F. Kennedy Stadium to handle the unexpected crowds.

Ellips

The day's activity began as early as 8:30 yesterday morning, as crowds began to assemble on the Ellips, the green mall between the Washington Monument and the White House. It was apparent that many of the protesters had spent the night on the monument grounds, as many could be seen that morning rolling up their sleeping bags and collecting their few belongings.

Just many more demonstrators poured into the area, first in small

groups of 10 or 20, and then in a steady stream down 15th and 17th Streets—the two roads flanking the White House.

The protesters carried homemade signs and banners and many flags, both American and U.S. Banners of ice cream, hotdog and soda vendors in the Ellipse area and along Pennsylvania Ave. limited the activities to a carnival-like air.

By 11 a.m. waves of people were moving back and forth along E Street, the road separating the Ellipse and the White House. The crowd was uncertain where the march was to begin, and simply milled about waiting for something to happen.

Police officers lined behind a rope along E Street went rapidly ascertain of what direction the mass would move in. Officer C. also expressed his fears of the situation, noting, "What if these people decide to break through the rope and charge the White House. I certainly can't stop them—I'll be down there on the pavement underneath them."

At one point the crowd did break down as the crowd, forced by its large size, swelled into the street. The police moved the rope back into the center of the road and reestablished the police line, backed up by a squadron of motorcycle officers.

After a few moments of pleading by the demonstrators, the police agreed to turn off the motorcycle which were firing exhaust fumes into the tightly packed crowd.

Several protesters were overcome by the heat and closeness of the crowd and were loaded through the police barrier to the lawn in front of the Treasury building.

National Guard

One officer explained to the demonstrators that the reports of Friday evening that National Guard troops had been deployed were true. However, he said the guardmen were working in the perimeter stations while these men are on the streets.

As he spoke, several soldiers

took up stations on the roof of the Treasury building, although they seemed to be aimed only with cameras with telescopic lenses.

At noon, the group started to move down Pennsylvania Ave. Among the protesters could be seen a sprinkling of adults, many carrying young children, but despite the unusually large number of adults, some even appearing to be in their sixties, the crowd was predominantly young, white people.

Many seemed to come in groups, carrying banners designating their

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A sea of people descended on Washington yesterday in what was termed by the organizers of the march as the "largest anti-war rally in the history of the United States."

Friday memorial

Service honors war dead

By Priscilla Weaver

Assistant Night Editor

Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—More than 2,500 civilians and servicemen representing the different branches of the armed forces crowded the 40-year old Washington Cathedral Friday night to attend a memorial service for the victims of the Indochina war.

The service, coordinated by the Congressional Defense Movement, a group of servicemen opposing the Vietnam War, was conducted by a well-known group of ministers.

Among the distinguished personalities taking part in the service were the newly elected Congressman, the Rev. Robert S. Detman; Rev. William Sloan Coffin, chaplain at Yale University; Rev. J. Brock Mosley, president of Lutheran Theological Seminary; Rev. Channing E. Phillips, chairman of the Housing Development Corporation and Francis D. Sayre, Jr., dean of the Washington Cathedral.

Pete Seeger

The religious sermon and political exhortation was interspersed with anti-war music. Singing was led by those of the foremost contemporary protest

singers, Pete Seeger, Peter Yarrow, and Richard W. Dinkins.

Detman advocated establishing "a trust fund of \$65 billion to be extended over a period of five years for the people of Vietnam whom we have damaged in so many ways."

He warned that if the Americans fail to do this, "we will be rightfully called barbarians."

Five indictments on the brutality of the war were presented by authors and a gold star mother.

Victims of system
One soldier emphasized that most of the 2 million people who had fought in the Vietnam War were draftees and "victims of the system," another speaker accused the politicians of "perpetuating the brutal war."

The gold star mother said that she came to the peace march in Washington to persuade the war because, she explained, "depersonalization perpetuates the war."

The last soldier to speak encouraged the evil of war by "helping the trust in others to grow."

During the sermon, Coffin said that "this memorial service is inadequate; our actions

is too profound to be expressed in liturgy.

"No song," he said, "No words can begin to fill the hollow in the hearts of those whom the dead in Indochina."

Responsibility
Coffin instructed, however, it was not guilt "but a responsibility that is called for, since democracy doesn't guarantee a good life," but that we get what we deserve.

Since the Indochina, he claimed, lay in "speaking truth to power," he exhorted those congregated to oppose the government. "Truth is our authority, not authority our truth," he said.

An offering was then collected for the GI Rights Project and the cost of the service.

One of the most emotional parts of the service was presented by Phillips. He asked each member of the congregation to imagine their neighbors on either side as being completely alien. He then encouraged them to take their hand and speak "some words of care and respect."

The service ended with "light." A heavy, mournful silence immediately enveloped the congregation—silence broken only by occasional sobbing weeping.

VVAW protests Vietnam war

By Gary Campanella

Staff Writer

Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—For the past week here, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) have been protesting American involvement in Indochina. These demonstrations, according to one member of the group, were their attempt to show their opposition to the war and the army. Their activities formally ended Friday.

Yesterday the protests continued in the fight against the war as they led thousands of demonstrators up Pennsylvania Ave. to the Capitol steps.

On the steps, John Kerry, leader of the VVAW, told the crowd that "by thinking and using our heads we can make ourselves heard without picking up sticks, without violence."

Message

He said that our mission in Vietnam is not yet over. "We have one last mission," he said, "to

Veterans lead thousands in Washington, D.C. in march, rally in front of Capitol building

overcome the leaders who promote the war and to conquer the hate and fear in this country."

The Vietnam war is important, Kerry said, "because Vietnam can be the place where war is finally terminated and especially where without helped in that termination. We have to decide that we're going to keep coming back to fight against the war until it ends."

Throughout his speech, Kerry stressed the need for change especially through the Indochina. "If all the people who are against the war voted for people who were against the war, the war would end and peace would be gained throughout the world," he added.

Emphasis

Shifting emphasis for the Indochina war to international

problems Kerry said, "It is important that the people of the country realize that the war is just one example of oppression, if this is going to be a country without Vietnam it must also be a country without oppression on all fronts."

"The fight against the war is not 'just a new day struggle,'" Kerry noted. "It is a lifetime struggle. We will continue to fight for peace forever for it is the truth that makes us free."

The veterans began their protest here last Monday when about 1,500 marched with parents of soldiers who died in Vietnam, to Arlington Cemetery from their West Potomac Park campsite. They were scheduled to hold a memorial service at the grounds, but the gates to the national cemetery had been closed.

The veterans attended the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on Tuesday, and cheered the witnesses, who included Sen. George McGovern, Mark Hatfield, Vance Hartke, and Alan Cranston, all opposed to the war.

Minor protests

There were also several minor protests at the Supreme Court building and at Constitution Hall, where the Daughters of the American Revolution were holding their annual convention.

The protest had been dubbed "Operation Dewey Canyon III" following the code names given to the two invasions of Laos in the past two years, known as "Operation Dewey Canyon I and II."

The veterans had been hampered

by an attempt by the Justice Department to stop them from using the mall as a march. The injunction the department obtained was overturned, however, by a United States Court of Appeals as long as the group maintained sanitary conditions and did not damage the area.

This order was overturned by Chief Justice Warren Burger on Tuesday, who ordered the veterans to march off the mall by Wednesday or face arrest. No explanation was given for the order issued by Burger.

Arrested

The veterans were not arrested on Wednesday or Thursday, but over 100 veterans were arrested when they demonstrated in the Supreme Court building on Thursday. They were charged with disturbing the peace.

There was an anticipated attitude toward the veterans from the Administration, which they did

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Despite the relative non-participation of Injye students, those who were in Washington yesterday witnessed what we think will prove to be a turning point for the anti-war movement.

Questions of exact numbers aside—were crowd estimates always grow smaller as these making the masses grow less sympathetic—yesterday's Washington rally was significant because it involved many, many more people than the expected alienated, affluent young. The screaming minority is becoming a purposeful majority: the American people are saying "no" to the government's war in Indochina.

With 73% of the American people advocating total American withdrawal by the end of this year, it becomes more apparent that President Nixon's supposed stronghold of support, the alienated working class—the middle Americans—is turning against him.

The American people are seeing the cost of this war for themselves. They are seeing that the wage increases they have fought for are rapidly being eaten away by escalating prices. Educated Americans are seeing the academic and technical job market dry up as those in the Nixon wage continuum in their neckless course with our nation.

Blacks are recognizing that they are regarded as you, suburban by the fly-white autonomy in Washington. Black people are saying they won't tolerate "benign neglect" any more than the Vietnamese have been willing to tolerate American presence in their country.

Women who rarely thought of themselves as political people are coming to understand that they are oppressed by the rulers of this nation. The women's liberation movement is gaining followers in places that political organizers had never dreamed they would find success. And, most of all, the American people are tired of their children dying in Vietnam for reasons that change by the year and never seem to amount to much. Moreover, the conscience of the American people is being aroused to the point where the majority is beginning to see that their government represents some other group besides them.

For those of us who have been in the anti-war movement for the last few years, these additions to our ranks are most welcome and provide signs for encouragement. And while our strength grows among older Americans, we continue to gather young Americans to our side.

As we said, the movement is at a turning point, a turning point dictated by the overwhelming support that has been organized on the issue of Indochina.

One option open to the movement, the one recommended by our corporate liberal friends in such places as the Democratic Party and the New York Times, is to align limited liberal Democratic leadership with the goal of ending American involvement in Indochina through legislation or the 1972 elections.

That road is perilous, for it means a transference of leadership to establishment politicians who, we have learned so often in these last few years, are not above selling anyone out for their own selfish ends. Furthermore, such a course ignores the significant fact that we have gone so far as we have as an independent, coalition movement. As long as we are

independent, the Washington politicians will court our favor; once we are in their back pockets, we are lost.

Another alternative, which does not exclude support of politicians who have a clear cut stand for immediate withdrawal, is to continue to build a broad-based movement to end the war and to try to organize that movement to the point where it will have a much deeper understanding of why we have Vietnam, Hawaii and Appalachia.

That road seems the most difficult, the goals seem farther away than even the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. Yet such a course of protracted, organized struggle is needed if the movement is not to lose its vision.

As long as we remain independent, that vision cannot be taken away from us. As we prepare to go to Washington in the next two weeks to show the government that we will not stand for an America that means the destruction of Indochina and the starving of this country's own people and the repression of its minorities, we must keep that vision of simple faith in the potential goodness of man that has driven us far as we have come.

The next two weeks will provide an opportunity for the movement to experiment non-violently with new tactics, to show to those who believe in violence that we do not need violence, to show to those who claim we are frivolous and immature that we are committed.

Finally, the Mayday activities in Washington will show the government that we will not content ourselves with peaceful marches which, while valuable, impose little cost upon the rulers of America.

We will serve notice that either they end this war or we will expend our energies to the limit so that they may not carry out business as usual. And, through all this, by our commitment to our goals and to non-violence, we will show the American people that we are sincere and will not rest.

On to Washington!

An editorial: What must be done



Guerrillas watching, waiting in Vietnam. (Photo by LHS)

A letter from Nguyen Thi Binh

Editor's note: Nguyen Thi Binh is a representative for the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam at the Paris talks. The following letter from her was distributed to the Chronicle by Liberation News Service.

Paris, April 16, 1971.
To the American friends participating in the U.S. anti-war movement's Spring Offensive (Apr-May 1971):

Dear American Friends,
I wish to extend my warmest greetings to all American friends of all social positions, political tendencies, and religious beliefs participating in this Spring Offensive. Once again you are gathering in Washington, New York, San Francisco, and many other big cities to show on the value of justice America, the overwhelming and justice minded America, demanding that your government end the Vietnam War.

Now that ever, an end to the war has become a pressing demand of the people of our two countries, as that the Vietnamese people say, has been suffering and mourning, demanding their devastated homeland, and heal the wounds in each of their hearts, and so that the American people's wealth and energies may be wholly directed to the urgent demands of their lives.

Yet, in his April 7 speech, President Nixon showed no concern about the opinions of the Vietnamese and the American people.

To our demand of an end to the war, Nixon agrees that he will continue his policy of "Vietnamization." It is the

prolongation and expansion of the war. To stand for this policy, Nixon honestly speaks of an imaginary ceasefire, not only in Laos, despite the glaring defeat of the U.S. and Saigon troops in the high area of South Vietnam and in Southern Laos.

We demand that Nixon set a reasonable date for the withdrawal of American troops, to come to a cease-fire between the liberation armed forces and the U.S. forces, and discussion on the question of creating safety for the withdrawing troops and on the question of releasing military men captured in the Vietnam war.

Yet, Nixon deliberately ignores the flexible proposal of the PRG on this matter, put forth on Sept. 17 and Dec. 15. He shamelessly deceived the American people, arguing that setting a deadline for the withdrawal would be tantamount to "throwing away" his principal bargaining counter to win the release of U.S. prisoners, and would endanger the security of American troops.

To the South Vietnamese people's demand of a representative administration standing for peace, independence and neutrality, Nixon answers that he will not renounce his "friends" the warlike and corrupt Thieu Ky-Khieu that he wants to impose on the South Vietnamese people.

And in order to soothe the American people's dissatisfaction at his speech, he speaks a profusion of rhetoric about peace, freedom and mutual respect.

In fact, the only explanation possible

of Nixon's attitude is his unwillingness to end the war and to withdraw all the American troops from South Vietnam, to stop disregard of the mortuaries and devastations suffered by the South Vietnamese people and the bringing of conscience felt by the American people in the face of the monstrous crimes of the U.S. Army in South Vietnam, in the name of the United States.

Dear American friends of all groupings, the youth students, women, working people, intellectuals, congressmen, clergymen, businessmen, writers and artists...

I wish to tell you that we, South Vietnamese people, ardently cherish peace and freedom, that we desire maintaining friendly relations with the American people.

In this spirit, we are seeking an appropriate political solution to the South Vietnam problem to end this atrocious war and set up new relationships between our two countries.

But the U.S. government, striving for military victory and domination of our people, has shown no interest for negotiations.

All our reasonable and logical proposals concerning the safe withdrawal of all U.S. troops, the cease-fire between the South Vietnamese liberation armed forces and the U.S. forces, the release of captured military men, and a just settlement of the political question in South Vietnam, have been blocked out by the U.S. government and are not widely known to the American public.

However, the American people of all

walks of life are completely different from their government. Through the recent trial of Lt. William Calley, they have better realized the brutal nature of the Vietnam war, a war that runs counter to the conscience of humanity and constitutes a tragedy for the United States, a war that has turned young American men into beasts without the least human feeling left in them.

They have realized that U.S. honor does not consist in pursuing that immoral and hopeless war but in respecting other people's freedom, justice and dignity.

Therefore, Americans of various social strata, including congressmen and businessmen, are participating in growing numbers in anti-war activities throughout the country.

They are resolutely voicing their legitimate aspirations, demanding that the U.S. government end the war and set a time limit for the rapid withdrawal of all the GIs from South Vietnam.

I wish great success to your Spring Offensive and hope that different groups of the U.S. anti-war movement will come to still better coordination in taking more effective actions to demand that the Nixon Administration seriously negotiate a political solution to bring about an early end to the war and restore a true and lasting peace in Vietnam.

With cordial greetings and warm wishes for friendship and solidarity,

Nguyen Thi Binh



Corretta King yesterday calling for the withdrawal of all American troops before Aug. 25. (Photo by Mike McCabe)



Demonstrators in Washington yesterday came from all parts of the country and were representative of practically every age group. (Photo by Diane Lubovky.)

-Massive support-

(Continued from Page 1)

Down the crowd.

John Kerry, leader of the veterans aid, "The generals have the most powerful army in the world. There is only one problem with it, it depends on soldiers who can think." He said he wished soldiers did not have to serve in Vietnam and come back with their wounded before people would realize the truth about the war.

"But in 30 years," he said, "when some of our brothers are struggling to walk on one leg and small boys ask why, we can say Vietnam and know we did our duty by telling the truth."

Funk

Another former service man to speak at the rally was former lieutenant Louis Funk, the first West Point graduate to receive

Conscientious Objector status. He said, "Consent of the war is complicity and complicity is crime."

Congressman Alton Sills of Illinois called for withdrawal by Oct. 4, the day after the South Vietnamese have national elections. He said, "our last elections didn't work out so well and nobody came in to defeat us."

Many speakers, citing the failure of past demonstrations, called for continuing action to end the war. "We're going to stay on the streets until the war is ended," Jerry Gervino, of the National Peace Action Coalition, said.

Journalist E. F. Stone was the first speaker to call for the elective defeat of President Nixon, saying, "We'll get rid of Richard Nixon just like we got rid of Lyndon Johnson. And we'll get rid of militarism and imperialism and free Vietnam. Then

we'll free some Vietnam in the future."

Congressman John Conyers of Michigan said, "Unless we translate this into political action this will be another march on an empty capital. Nixon must go," Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana said, "We have a plan Mr. Nixon. It can be boiled down to two words: 'Get Now!'"

Bella Abzug, congresswoman from New York, said, "Everybody is here except Richard Nixon. He is in retreat from the American people. But we're going to catch him." She promised an end to the "middle class, middle age, white, male dominance of the country."

"If the government won't stop the war, we'll deny them men and money," Chicago eight defendant David Dellinger said. "We'll stop all business this week, refuse to comply with the draft and refuse to pay all war taxes."

Dellinger also ridiculed the President's Prisoner of War policy saying, "Don't you know, Mr. President, that prisoners are not released in any way until the war is over?" He said he could not ask a country we are still attacking to release prisoners.

Gibson

Hal Gibson, a vice president of the Teamsters Union, said, "Today's outpouring should send any doubt for America's stand on the war. Don't bet Washington without killing the members of Congress."

Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference labeled the war as racist. He also called for an end to the war by Aug. 28. In addition, he called for a national boycott of A. & P. stores to protest their exploitation of ghetto areas.

Henny Milax of the Businessmen's Committee Against the War said "the war is bad for business" and called for the ending of a withdrawal date.

In addition to speakers, music was provided by Peter, Paul and Mary, John sang "Blowin' in the Wind," John Hart (Fort), John Denver and several local groups.

The weekend, which began with a service in the National Cathedral on Friday night, continued last night with an all night song concert in Sylvan Theatre near the Washington Monument.

Rally reaction

By Rick McFabe

and Reporter

WASHINGTON—Surprise at the large turnout, sympathy with the actual marchers, and general support of the immediate withdrawal of all troops from Indochina were the overwhelming sentiments of several bystanders interviewed yesterday who were not involved in the march in Washington.

Those interviewed ranged from a tourist to a consomme stand vendor, all of whom said they were generally unfamiliar with the logistics of the march itself and unaware of the activities May 2-6 centering on massive civil disobedience.

Uncertainty

Although those interviewed expressed uncertainty as to the ultimate effect of this year's march, most felt that the broad-based march, which included not only students but also labor officials and

A news feature

cookers, demonstrated the broadest sentiment of the American population, favoring social disengagement of troops from Indochina.

This displeasure with the Administration's present policy in Indochina will be manifested at the polling places, according to one Washington tourist.

She said that she didn't think it would have "any effect on Congress," and that the "best step is to vote those senators who have impeded us withdrawn."

Commitment

The march must remain non-violent and elicit more than emotional fervor, but rather a sustained commitment, a father of four said.

Such commitment will aid carrying out the next step of selecting peace candidates "who will pull us out," he said.

The activities last week of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who demand immediate withdrawal of all troops and a halt to further funds to Indochina and the CIA

was characterized as "very impressive" by some, and as an added impetus to yesterday's activities by others.

The veterans relinquished their activities Friday by depositing war medals on the Capitol steps, according to one veteran.

Veterans

The veterans who testified throughout the week at Senate Subcommittee hearings on war atrocities "showed to the nations the debilitating and demoralizing effect of the power of war," one Washington resident said.

"However emotionally overpowering their effect was, this war will be settled on a political basis, not on an issue of morality," the resident added.

Veteran

A creditor, selling assorted peace buttons and flags to small children, said that "it was hard to knock the action of the vets because, although I went into the army and served in 1956, times may have changed now."

The Calley sentence "will put pressure" on future industries and may lead to a reexamination of their role," the vendor commented.

He added that businessmen were going well and that he could sell 500 peace flags if he had them.

Defense

Defense at yesterday's events was criticized by a GI who said he felt that the march itself "was not an effective way of achieving peace." Peace can only be achieved between individuals, he added.

The march, he complained, did not offer any concrete means for achieving peace.

The GI explained that peace among the peoples of Vietnam is not attainable if the U.S. withdraws. He did not say specifically how peace was possible, given the current position of the United States in Indochina.

A D.C. policeman, on duty for twelve hours, said although he was not "totally unsympathetic with the cause, the amount of litter and damage and the potential violence of such a gathering did not make it the best way to achieve its goal."

-Marchers-

(Continued from Page 2)

speculations. Some of the groups were indeed by college or geographic areas, while others represented such diverse movements as unions, and Gay Liberation.

It appeared that the only common denominator of the crowd was its opposition to the war.

Quiet

As they moved along Pennsylvania Ave., the protesters were generally quiet, often speaking only among themselves. At times, the groups broke out in chanting or songs, particularly when passing the Justice Department when chants such as "Hanoi must go" and "Free Angela, free Eric, stop waging war on Black America" erupted.

Along the march route police officers were stationed side-by-side with the approximately 5000 parade marchers who had been trained in crowd control.

As time passed, the police became noticeably more relaxed, passing to speak with demonstrators, make requests and lounge against the walls of the buildings.

Barriers

At the rally site, on the west

front of the Capitol, the barriers that had been erected earlier this week and now which the Vietnam veterans had thrown their service medals Friday, were torn down. It was the only violent incident reported during the day, and the police took no action.

The rally at the Capitol had been in progress over an hour when the last wave of marchers moved down Pennsylvania Ave. There was not enough room on the grassy areas around the Capitol for all the people to sit, leaving many in the streets and well out of the range of the loud speaker system which had been set up for the rally. The people who could not hear what was being said on the platform either sat in small groups and talked or wandered through the empty streets, many in search of food.

At the crowd dispersed from the Capitol area, some groups of young protesters carrying Vietnamese relief flags sought access to the parking area at Dupont Circle. The police on hand told them that the park was closed, so which knew the youths tried to shove in, and the sergeants explained to them that there was an open park area a few blocks further down Connecticut Ave.



Active duty GI's carrying their banners as they follow the lead of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War in yesterday's protest march. (Photo by Mike McCabe)

-Veterans-

(Continued from Page 2)

by to stop the provisions from arriving on the mall and threatened those with arrest, there was no confrontation, such though most of the 1,300 veterans continued to be bivouacked on the mall.

White House Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said steps to avoid further had been taken and the administration would "listen with the understanding that the people of this country have the right to express themselves."