

Torch-bearing protesters routed by riot police on Stanford campus

Four hundred antiwar marchers were routed by 100 riot police Thursday night after they refused to extinguish black "liberty" torches and scattered into dry fields along Palm Drive.

The march from the plaza at Palo Alto to the Hansen Electronics Laboratories at Stanford University was broken up at 8:45 p.m. at the intersection of Palo Alto and Campus drives.

Demonstrators eluded police in the underbrush, regrouped on the campus and continued roaming in small groups until midnight.

A small amount of window breaking and several small fires were reported.

There was one arrest. James Joseph McDonald, a 22-year-old non-student, for failure to disperse, resisting arrest and assault on a police officer.

McDonald listed an address of 1926 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City.

Officers said he was arrested for "swinging his fists" at Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputies J. M. Wade and Al Collins at 10:55 p.m.

Three persons were treated

at Stanford Hospital for superficial cuts and released.

No police were injured, but a torch was thrown at a Stanford police officer and it scorched his uniform.

The march was a prelude to today's attempted strike at Stanford to protest U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and war-related research at Stanford.

The marchers moved peacefully down University Avenue behind a large red and black banner that read "horror." They carried antiwar signs, Vietcong flags and shouted antiwar slogans and "on strike, shut it down."

The rag-tag crew was mostly young and included Stanford, Footfall Junior College and high school students and street people. A handful of middle-aged and elderly persons started on the march. One marcher had a broken leg and a young Vietnam Veteran was pushed in a wheelchair that reportedly was turned over when the marchers scattered.

Torches had been prohibited on the march as fire hazards and Palo Alto police exchanged small white candles

for four-foot kerosene-soaked torches. On Palm Drive, however, about one hundred torches were distributed and the chanting marchers continued in the smoky torch light.

Medical aid services were enlisted from Palo Alto and San Jose police in addition to Santa Clara County Sheriff's Deputies.

Here is an account of the evening.

At 7 p.m. protesters gathered at the plaza. About 25 Palo Alto police were stationed at corners and several strolled through the crowd confiscating torches. Several persons protested to Chief James Zurcher that the crowd was being photographed from an unmarked beige station wagon.

At 7:45 p.m. the crowd set out toward Stanford.

At 8:15 p.m. torches were produced. The crowd began to chant "burn, baby, burn," and many persons scooped up rocks along the road.

At the Campus Drive intersection the main group was joined by about 50 persons on Palm Drive and another 150 on Campus Drive.

Lt. Donald Tamm of the sheriff's department ordered demonstrators to put out their torches as a condition for continuing the march. About 50 deputies blocked Palm Drive in several rows.

The crowd balked left on Campus Drive and scattered into the eucalyptus groves. Many carried torches. Some threw them down in pairs. A few set fire to dry grass and pelted charging deputies with rocks.

Deputies blocked their escape and herded most back to Palm Drive. Torches were confiscated and several persons were shoved roughly.

Juan Flores, assistant professor of German at Stanford, said he was clubbed without provocation as he tried to call attention to the deputies' conduct. He had several stitches taken in his forehead.

The body of the group was herded back although about 150 scattered to the left into bushes, regrouped and headed back to campus.

At 8:30 p.m. Tamm declared an illegal assembly and ordered the crowd to disperse along Palm Drive heading back to Palo Alto.

About 150 persons then turned right and ran down Campus Drive toward the anatomy building and the hospital parking lot. They were surrounded twice by police and "escorted" back toward Quarry and Arboretum Roads. At Palm Drive they were met by Palo Alto police. They returned to Palo Alto and many returned to campus in their cars.

At 9 p.m. deputies broke up about 100 persons on White Plaza and the crowd shifted from place to place. Demonstrators were scattered by patrol cars and tactical squads as they attempted to gather in the undergraduate library and Treadwell Union. Police stopped small groups on the campus and enforced the 10 p.m. curfew for juveniles.

At 10:30 p.m. Stanford rector, Irena Kwon Ping Ho, told 150 persons outside Dinkelspiel auditorium to disperse and prepare for today's strike.

"Tonight's demonstration has shown so well what our brothers and sisters in Indochina must face by waging a people's war against super-ior technology," he said.