

## **Washington Post**

### **20,000 Protest Against U.S. Policy**

By Caryle Murphy November 13, 1983

An estimated 20,000 people, warning of possible U.S. involvement in a Vietnam-style war, rallied near the White House yesterday to protest the Reagan administration's policies in Central America and the Caribbean.

The afternoon rally, which included a speech by Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson, climaxed a blustery day of '60s-style protests that included songs by the group Peter, Paul and Mary, an attempt by counterdemonstrators to halt the protesters' march to the Ellipse and a poignant reminder of the Vietnam war.

U.S. Park Police said 18 persons were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct when they sat down in Pennsylvania Avenue NW in front of the White House in an attempt to block the march.

Tyler Hendricks, a spokesman for the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) that is a student arm of the Unification Church, said all those arrested were members of his group.

He said most of those arrested were released after posting \$10 bonds.

Park Police, who estimated the crowd at 20,000, said no injuries were reported.

Earlier in the day, as marchers carrying signs protesting U.S. support for antigovernment guerrillas in Nicaragua and for the government of El Salvador walked east on Constitution Avenue, they were met by a small band of bearded Vietnam veterans walking in the opposite direction.

The veterans, wearing field jackets and carrying flags and wreaths, had gathered on Capitol Hill and were marching to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for a service in honor of POWs and MIAs.

As the two groups moved past each other, the protesters stopped to gawk at the veterans who, for the most part, kept marching, looking straight ahead.

The march took place fewer than three weeks after the U.S. invasion of Grenada, which has generated widespread public approval in opinion polls and little criticism

from Democratic politicians. The invasion has temporarily overshadowed American intervention in the conflicts of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Organizers of the march, a group of about 70 civil rights, disarmament and foreign policy organizations called the "November 12 Coalition," billed the protest as a way to show opposition to the administration's policies in Central America despite the generally favorable opinions of its Grenada operation.

Yesterday's march was the first major nationally organized protest against the administration's Central American policy since 23,000 people protested here on the eve of the U.S.-backed elections in El Salvador in March of last year.

At the rally on the Ellipse, Jackson, who was interrupted by applause several times, criticized Reagan's foreign policies in Lebanon, Central America and Grenada and called for a new course of action.

"We are here today to take a firm stand against a foreign policy of injustice, inhumanity and intimidation," said Jackson, "and for policy of talks, negotiations, human rights and the right to self-determination. In short, we are here today to demand a new course in America's foreign and domestic policies," he declared.

Jackson said America needs to support a neutral peace-keeping force in Lebanon and that the country's highest priority should be to negotiate a meaningful arms agreement with the Soviet Union.

He drew applause when he said it is time for a "rainbow coalition" of blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, students, women and peace activists. At one point the crowd chanted with him, "Our time has come."

Protest leaders organized three smaller rallies for the morning, including one near the State Department where effigies of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick and former secretary of state Henry A. Kissinger were raised.

A few feet away, organizers erected mock tombstones bearing numbers said to represent the total of dead in wars in Central America.

Across town, at the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service building, folk singers Peter, Paul and Mary played protest songs as thousands sang along. Later, the trio repeated its performance at the demonstration near the White House.

At a third rally at the Department of Health and Human Services, demonstrators performed skits.

After the morning rallies, demonstrators converged to march along Pennsylvania Avenue and around the White House before assembling at the Ellipse. Once at the main site, they huddled together to keep warm against brisk winds and temperatures in the mid-40s.

As in marches during the 1960s that protested the Vietnam War, the demonstrators were mainly whites in their 20s. Banners announced the names of college contingents from such campuses as Yale, Oberlin, Colgate, Swarthmore and the University of Michigan.

But there also were hundreds of others, such as Marcia and Bernard Schuman, who came from New York for the march because "we feel the U.S. policy is wrong. You cannot impose democracy by force. It goes against all the morals, the principles, on which this country was established when we intervene," said Marcia Schuman.

Twenty-four veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which fought on the side of the Republican forces in the Spanish Civil War were also there yesterday. "Nurses Against U.S. Aggression," "Lawyers Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Central America" and "Ex-Peace Corps Volunteers Committee on Central America" were some of the other groups that marched.

One couple, Jean and Wilder Spaulding of Washington, 82 and 84 years old respectively, turned out to "stop all this nonsense sending troops to other countries."

Among all the things carried on high by the protesters yesterday one stood out. It was an American flag. Its bearer, Tim Rowe, said he was disappointed there were not more. "This flag can stand for peace and justice," said Rowe, a psychiatrist working with veterans in Northampton, Mass.

Rowe said the situation in Grenada was "too confusing; I don't think the last judgment is in. But I want to prevent the U.S. from getting bogged down in another Vietnam in Central America," he said.

Washington Post staff writer Marcia Slacum contributed to this story.