

# MASSIVE PROTEST ON VIETNAM WAR EXPECTED TODAY

**Nixon Opposition Is Unlikely  
to Deter Demonstrators  
—City Split on Plans**

**P.B.A. SCORES LINDSAY**

**Firemen and Veterans Also  
Against Observance Here  
—Schools to Be Open**

By **HOMER BIGART**

Massive antiwar demonstrations were expected throughout the country today despite President Nixon's statement that the agitation was undercutting his efforts for an honorable peace.

Americans who sympathized with the Vietnam Moratorium Day protest were expected to lower their flags to half-staff and attend mass rallies, parades, teach-ins, forums, candlelight processions, prayers and the reading of the names of Vietnam war dead.

Signs of opposition to the moratorium appeared yesterday as some members of veterans organizations, the police and firemen, said they would fly their flags full-staff and, in some towns, drive in daytime with headlights on as a gesture of confidence in the President.

#### **Other Developments Listed**

There were also the following developments yesterday:

¶ In Washington, 20 members of Congress who have been most outspoken against the war planned an all-night demonstration in Congress.

¶ In Paris, the Hanoi Government, in a statement made public there, hailed the demonstrations as "a timely rebuff" to the Nixon Administration and an expression of Americans' will "to save their children and brothers from a useless death in Vietnam."

¶ In South Vietnam, President Nguyen Van Thieu said he was confident the majority of Americans backed the allied war effort.

¶ In Hanoi, North Vietnam's official publication, Nhan Dan, described American demonstrators as "our heroic comrades-in-arms" in an article that reserved special praise for the Students for a Democratic Society.

¶ In London, 50 members of Parliament introduced a motion in the House of Commons expressing full support for the American war protesters.

¶ In New York, Mayor Lindsay, despite growing criticism, remained firm in his decision to participate in the city's antiwar rallies. He had proclaimed

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# Massive Vietnam Protest Is Expected

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a day of observance to mourn the Vietnam war dead. He planned to deck City Hall in mourning and lower the flag to half-staff.

Millions of New Yorkers planned to follow or flout the Lindsay proclamation.

The bitterness against the proclamation was particularly evident among veteran organizations, the police and firemen. The American Legion called the Mayor's action "indefensible, reprehensible and outrageous." The Uniformed Firefighters Association refused to take part in this "day of national disgrace." The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association called the demonstration "wholly inimical to the national interest."

The P.B.A. called on all precinct houses to refuse to lower the flag. Police Headquarters had no comment.

Governor Rockefeller decided to fly at full-staff the flag over his office in 22 West 55th Street.

The Mayor had requested that public schools be closed in the interest of safety if enough teachers and custodians decided to stay away and participate in demonstrations. The request had thrown the Board of Education into confusion.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Nathan Brown, said last night that although all 900 of the city's schools would be open today, principals had "notified the parents of children who could not be accommodated in those few schools [a total of 72] in which an overwhelming majority of teachers would be absent so that parents could make different arrangements for their children."

The Mayor had asked for a report by 1 P.M. yesterday of the number of schools that would close. But at the end of the afternoon the Board of Education said it had no idea of how much absenteeism to expect.

## 'Compulsion' Held Illegal

The school picture was further confused when Supreme Court Justice Vito J. Titone ordered the Board of Education to rescind a directive allowing students and teachers to take part in the demonstrations. Within a few hours, however, Justice Titone's action was stayed by an appeal filed by Assistant Corporation Counsel Judith Gordon and upheld by Presiding Justice George J. Beldock.

Justice Titone had found that the Board of Education's directive contained "the element of compulsion." The Justice ruled:

"Students and teachers who do not attend school that day will be deemed to be against the Government's Vietnam war policy, and those who attend will be assumed to favor such policy. It [the directive] forces people to take a position when,

as a matter of constitutional law, they are not required to do so."

Justice Beldock explained that his action, which in effect nullified Justice Titone's order, was taken to avoid "absolute, utter confusion and chaos."

The main demonstrations in the city today include noon rallies at United Nations Plaza, at which Theodore C. Sorensen, former aide to President John F. Kennedy, and the cast of "Hair" are scheduled to appear, and a Bryant Park rally, starting at 4:30 P.M.

The scheduled speakers at Bryant Park include the Mayor, Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota, Senator Jacob K. Javits, Representative Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn, Senator Charles E. Goodell, and the Rev. William Sloane Coffin Jr., chaplain at Yale University.

There will be a day-long service at Trinity Church, where homilies will be delivered by leaders of the financial committee.

According to William vanden Heuvel, a lawyer and one of the leaders of the demonstration, readers of the names of war dead will include Ralph Ablon, industrialist; Sinclair Armstrong, vice president of the U.S. Trust Company and former Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Benjamin J. Buttenwieser, a partner in Kuhn, Loeb & Co.; Michael Burke, president of the New York Yankees; Roswell Gilpatrick, former Deputy Secretary of Defense; Andre Meyer, senior partner of Lazard, Freres & Co., and Robert Neuberger of Neuberger Loeb.

## Candlelight Procession Slated

At the close of the Bryant Park rally, a candlelight procession to Rockefeller Plaza is planned. After a vigil in the plaza, the marchers will move to St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Leaders of the demonstration had asked Cardinal Cooke for a 9 P.M. mass in the cathedral to terminate the day. But Cardinal Cooke is not scheduled to return from Rome until today and the cathedral staff has scheduled masses for peace at 9 A.M. and 5:30 P.M.

Consequently, the demonstrators will hold a closing service on Fifth Avenue outside the cathedral. Leaders said they would invite Cardinal Cooke to participate.

The Mayor had urged all churches to toll their bells. Fifteen churches in Manhattan said they would. The Mayor said he wanted an air of solemnity.

As he left City Hall yesterday to attend the World Series game, the Mayor expressed his feelings:

"This moratorium is a peaceful thing, prayerful in manner, to protest this war. This is a day of national remembrance of the war dead. This is a day of remembrance for the mothers and fathers and wives and

brothers and sisters of those who have given their lives. It is a peaceful, prayerful alternative to violent confrontation."

But the policemen, firemen and some patriotic societies expressed bitter disagreement.

Maurice Stember, New York adjutant of the American Legion, said in a telegram to the Mayor that any lowering of flags today "cannot be considered as honoring the dead, but a capitulation to the enemy."

Mr. Stember said that only the President had the power to order a national day of mourning.

Charles W. Wiley, executive director of the National Committee for Responsible Patriotism, said his organization was considering a counter demonstration to be held at some later date.

The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association expressed its opposition in a resolution calling today's demonstrations "organized public attacks on the foreign policy of the United States" and expressing "full confidence" in the judgment of President Nixon.

Despite the rising opposition, local leaders of the Vietnam Moratorium Day, said their support was escalating. Despite the coolness of the New York Central Labor Council, unions representing 250,000 were backing demonstrations in the metropolitan area, they claimed, and they said that there was massive support within the professions and business.

Workers and executives of the city's major publishing houses planned to quit work between 11 A.M., and 1 P.M. to attend a rally in front of the Public Library.

Peace petitions are being circulated and one, with 365 names, including Bennett Cerf, calls for "rapid and unequivocal withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam."

In Princeton, N. J., last night 2,500 students, faculty members and townspeople attended a teach-in sponsored by the Princeton University Moratorium Committee, and a counter-group of 200 heard South Vietnam's Ambassador to the United States, Bui Diem, criticize the moratorium as only a means to prolong the war.

Arthur J. Goldberg, former United States Representative at the United Nations, announced his support of the demonstrations. He said it was "very important" for Americans to express their views on the war.

In Miami, the executive council of the two-million-member United Church of Christ passed a resolution calling on President Nixon to "listen carefully" to the voices of peace, and warning that the Vietnam war was "destroying the spiritual, moral, physical and economic health" of America.