Large forces of police waiting off-campus

At least two major contingents of police were prepared to act yesterday afternoon if the MIT administration chose to seek assistance.

The largest force was set up at the Charles Harrington School on Cambridge Street, just a few blocks behind Tech Square. It was apparently staffed by the Cambridge Police night shift and the MDC police.

The police were on alert in what appeared to be either the auditorium or gymnasium of the school. Estimates of their strength varied from 50 to 250.

Outside the school, a massive contingent of equipment was ready. At mid-afternoon, there were two MDC communications units, a bus ready to transport police. There were also at least eight "paddy wagons," some of which were borrowed from such towns as Somerville and Newton. The K-9 detachment was there also. One dog was visible in a patrol car, and there was a van which evidently contained additional dogs. There were also two MDC personnel carriers, as well as the usual riot helmets and clubs.

The other center of known police activity yesterday was the Commonwealth Armony at 1010 Commonwealth Ave. The forces present there appeared to be predominantly State Police. Although there were large numbers of cars parked outside the armory, no National Guardmen were observed at any time.

The State Police were well equipped. Their gear included bases for transportation, armored personnel carriers, as well as the usual riot helmets and clubs.

Estimates of their strength were sketchy, but it seemed certain that there were no more than 100 present.

There was continuous activity at the armory, with vehicles (mostly unmarked, plain late-model Ford sedans) entering and leaving the building.

When questioned concerning this assembly of State Police, Associate Provost Walter Rosenbloom (apparently speaking for President Howard Johnson) said that this force had not been assembled at the request of MIT. He suggested that it might have been "set up at the request of Cambridge authorities."

At 6 pm, after the close of NAC activities for the day, a further check revealed that virtually all of the police had been withdrawn from Harrington School.

WEATHERMAN ASKS MILITANT ACTION

(Continued from page 1)

During a discussion last night Eric Mann, a Weatherman leader, promised that his group, while remaining in the coalition, would oppose strongly for a militant demonstration in front of the 1-Laba. He denied charges that the Weatherman sought to undermine NAC efforts, charging in return that the NAC leadership was searching for an excuse to toss the far-left faction out of the coalition.

The Weatherman were miffed by a NAC inaction during the crucial second rally in the lobby of Building Seven. Mann accused the coalition's leadership of playing a manacled demonstration for today, in attempted atonement for their "poor show ing" yesterday. Insisting that "we want to win!" he outlined street-fighting tactics that the Weatherman will submit for consideration.

So the action that develops today should show a marked escalation from the "parade" that took place yesterday. One NAC leader complained privately that the coalition had the support to move on the administrative offices, but had lost their chance in a leadership breakdown. Through careful planning the coalition hopes to avoid similar crisis.

As for the Student Center itself, NAC seems prepared to honor its commitment to keep the building open. Working through the regular Student Center Committee, the demonstrators have succeeded in establishing a ban, enforced by the Campus Police, against cameras.

But Security patrols have been established to monitor all movement into and out of the building. Volunteers are assigned to four-hour shifts keeping watch over dooms and stairways.

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