Editor's Note: The atmosphere on the MIT campus today is a bit different from the days of protests and strikes in the late sixties and early seventies as evidenced by this article from the Technical Review, Feb. 10, 1979.

Cambridge and Somerville tactical police, using tear gas, dogs and clubs swept hundreds of demonstrators from the MIT campus yesterday. The police action came after sit-in protesters, only a few of them MIT students, smashed windows, vandalized railroad tracks and blocked Massachusetts Avenue with dumpsters and debris.

For three hours, under sporadic rain showers, police and crowds paraded back and forth across Kresge Plaza. Police lobbed dozens of canisters of tear gas and pepper gas at demonstrators, and at spectators gathered on the roof of the Student Center and on the dome of Building 7.

In several instances, police aimed tear gas projectiles directly at people. Gas was thrown into Kresge Plaza by a student in the Concert Hall band for a Friday night performance; hundreds of people took refuge in the Student Center.

Six minor and four serious injuries were treated in the MIT Infirmary. The serious injuries included a broken arm, head injuries with lacerations and broken teeth, and two back injuries, the latter caused by tear gas canisters fired directly at students. The broken arm was the result of prolonged bastinado and kicking by riot police of a student who had reportedly attempted to hurl a burning tear gas canister back at police. There were also reports of at least three dog bites inflicted by the police dogs.

MIT officials expressed anguish at the violence. "A major goal of the MIT Committee Against the War was aimed at those who were shouting "Stop the Indiscriminate Massacre," but he was ignored. The events grew out of a demonstration that began with a 4 pm rally at the JKF Federal Building in Boston. Earlier in the day about 200 people, including several from MIT, were arrested in the civil disobedience that has been going on at JFK since President Nixon's speech last Monday afternoon. The rally was called by an ad hoc "Committee Against International Outsourcing." In leaflets in CAIO expressed the intention "to barricade the barricades, black the blockaders..."

About 400 people left the JFK Building following the rally, marched down Boylston Street and across the Harvard Bridge past MIT. The group reached MIT about 5:55 pm. Just above Vassar Street, the group split in three: one group proceeded to Tech Square, which houses offices of Polaroid and Hewlett-Packard, and has been a considered possible target for trashing. Small fires were set outside the buildings. A second group vandalized railroad tracks, reportedly smashing switch boxes and flashers with clubs and sledgehammers.

About 35 demonstrators attempted to move up Mass Ave., but Cambridge police had been alerted and turned them back toward MIT with a tear gas barrage.

Many incidents of excessive force were reported. A group of people trapped on the Student Center porch by doors were gassed and beaten with clubs and gas-gun butts as police moved them down the steps. A tear gas canister was aimed at spectators on the McCormick Penthouse. Gas grenades were lobbed into Kresge, and when the hand attempted to leave, the police told them to get back inside. They escaped through the rear exit.

The worst violence took place behind Baker House as the police dispersed people into the dormitories and across Bridge Field. At one point, a patrol car on Ambush Alley swerved sharply in an attempt to hit several students, who escaped harm. The police were apparently trying to use tear gas canisters to keep students in the houses; one helmeted cop entered Baker Lobby at 8:05, shook his club at the 75 people gathered there and said, "Next one outside gets this." Police were also seen at the Harvard Lampoon and at the Mass Ave., the media center and McCormick. When frustrated by locked doors at the latter, they passed the gas grenade into the building. At Phi Beta Equus, where several people had taken refuge from the sweep, police unsuccessfully attempted to break down the door and arrested one student who had been locked out.

Most of the crowd scattered, some moved to the steps of 77 Mass Ave. and the rest headed for Kresge Plaza. Then, for some reason, the police moved back and the demonstrators returned to the street. The police opened up with a tear gas barrage and pushed the body of people back into Kresge Plaza.

Having opened Mass Ave., the police moved off. But the crowd surged from Kresge Plaza and rebuilt the barricade. This time the police moved to push the demonstrators out of Kresge Plaza and back across the West Campus. About 40 policemen took part in the action.

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