

Thousands of Exiles Mass Near Town Hall to Assail Group Protesting Travel Ban to Cuba—Five Are Arrested

By PETER KIHSS

Thousands of anti-Castro demonstrators swarmed in and around the Times Square area yesterday protesting a Town Hall rally by American students who had traveled to Cuba.

The rally, from which two groups of anti-Castro demonstrators were forcibly ejected, wound up with the police escorting 1,400 participants in the meeting along 42d Street to the Times Square subway station.

One anti-Castro Cuban was cut above the eye; five persons were arrested in scuffles waged at various points in the area; a police inspector and a newspaper reporter were hit by an egg, and a police horse was crashed when thrust against a car.

But the meeting went off as scheduled from 2:15 to 4:45 P.M. Phillip Abbott Luce, one of the leaders, said the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba would sponsor another trip to Cuba—perhaps next January or June—to uphold its claim to freedom of travel, despite a State Department ban.

'Repression' Charged

At the rally, Conrad J. Lynn, panel moderator, asserted that "we are making a demonstration here this afternoon not so much for Cuba as for America."

"There will be no peaceful solution to American problems if we are going to have repression of expression," he said.

The Times Square area has been ruled out for mass demonstrations by an order of Police Commissioner Michael J. Murphy since last Oct. 24. The ban is from 40th to 59th Street between Fifth and Ninth Avenues.

But before yesterday's gath-

ering at Town Hall, 113 West 43d Street, between the Avenue of the Americas and Seventh Avenue, Cuban exile groups opposed to Premier Fidel Castro had been calling their forces from as far away as Miami and Washington to protest. The American students, the Cuban exiles had heard, planned to make favorable reports on the Castro revolution.

3,000 Turnout Estimated

Alfred Estrada, assistant secretary general of the exiles' Cuban Workers Democratic Revolutionary Front, estimated that up to 3,000 anti-Castro adherents from many groups had turned out.

They ran into a reminder by Assistant Chief Inspector Anthony S. O'Connell of the anti-picketing ban. But the police official said he would allow 25 pickets on West 43d Street across Town Hall. He suggested the other might disperse to demonstrate at such areas as the United Nations.

Chief O'Connell reported he had more than 100 policemen on hand by 1 P.M. They included mounted policemen wearing World War I helmets. The police screened pedestrians to make sure they had tickets to the rally or business in the block.

By 1:30 P.M. motor traffic was being turned away by police barricades. Fifty pickets—double the authorized number—were marching across from Town Hall between the Hotel Diplomat and Henry Miller's Theater. Some of their signs said, "America Do Not Believe the Red Liars" and "Dismantle Castro."

The student group was also

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EXILES DENOUNCE TRAVEL-BAN FOES

Clashes Erupt Near Town Hall—Police Cordon Off Path to IRT Station

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screening everyone entering Town Hall with its own security force, led by Jacob Rosen, 24 years old, of 636 West 174th Street, who said he has been assisting racial integration efforts in Monroe, N.C.

Mr. Rosen said he had 150 men and women committee members at the doors and in the audience. They inspected pocketbooks and ran their hands over the pockets of those entering to make sure no "Molotov cocktails, stink bombs or weapons of any kind" were being brought in.

Just before the meeting started, Mr. Rosen said he spotted about 30 anti-Castro sympathizers sitting in the back rows of the orchestra section. He said he asked them to leave and offered to refund their money. (Tickets had sold for \$1 and \$2.50 apiece.)

When the anti-Castro group protested, Mr. Rosen's committee members began hauling them out. In a melee, Rafael Alvarez, 28, of 168 State Street, Brooklyn, a member of the anti-Castro Revolutionary Recovery Movement, was struck above the right eye. Blood streamed over his face, and four stitches were taken later at St. Clare's Hospital to close the wound.

Balcony Group Ousted

A few minutes later, Mr. Rosen's forces sought to eject from the balcony a group of members of the anti-Castro Cuban Student Directorate. Jose Antonio Lanuza, Miami chief of information for the group, asserted that 80 members had bought tickets at \$1 apiece but intended no disturbance.

"I'll give you three minutes to get out," Mr. Rosen said later he had told them, when the group became boisterous. The anti-Castro students started singing the Cuban National Anthem and then poured down the stairs and out into the street, with their secretary general, Luis Hernandez Rocha, instructing his members to refrain from any disorder.

Corliss Lamont, writer and lecturer, served as chairman of the meeting after Cerleton Beals, another writer, had asserted that announcements that he would take part were unauthorized. Mr. Lynn, a lawyer, acted as panel moderator after I. P. Stone, another writer, had withdrawn from the program.

Student speakers in a panel session included Mr. Luce, assistant editor of a monthly put out by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee; Levi Laub and Steve Martinot, organizers of a Progressive Labor Movement club at Columbia University last year; Albert L. Maher, bearded former Harvard student and cowboy, whose father, John F. Maher is a wealthy Houston industrialist; John Wayne Thomas, of Oakland, Calif., and Martin A. Nicoiaus, of Fontana, Wis.

Other speakers included James Higgins, assistant editor of The York (Pa.) Gazette and Daily, who helped take a collection for the students' legal defense, future trips and the family of one traveler who died in Cuba. Others were Maxwell Gaismar and Truman Nelson, authors.

Mr. Lamont announced that the traveling students were accepting the challenge of the Cuban Student Directorate to a debate "on the proper occasion." He expressed the hope that Madison Square Garden might be the locale for the debate.

Mr. Luce declared that "we have broken no law, because there is no law" against travel to Cuba—only public regulations and notices.

Mr. Thomas said Premier Castro had ruled that "anyone who discriminates against any man is a counter-revolutionary and can be shot."

Mr. Laub said Cuba had "wonderfully honest leadership" but a "serious problem of bureaucracy." Mr. Martinot described Cuba's single-party system as "eliminating egotism which arises from the competitive system." Mr. Nicoiaus asserted "the vast majority of the Cuban people backed Fidel Castro and the Socialist revolution."

While Mr. Maher was talking about folk culture in Cuba, a man dashed up on the stage to demand, "what about freedom to go out of the country?" Two guards hustled him away. Mr. Maher replied that "on the plane to Madrid a number of Cubans were leaving" and that when transportation became available, he was sure anybody who wished to leave could.

A heckler shouted from the balcony in Spanish and was also hastily ejected.

The rally was to end at 4:45 P.M., with the last part of the program consisting of written questions from the audience. But Mr. Rosen and other group leaders became worried about the departure of the throng, and, after vainly trying to charter a fleet of buses or taxis, arranged with the police for a guarded exodus to the subway.

At 4:23 P.M. Mr. Lamont interrupted to announce this move to the crowd. Ten minutes later, Mr. Rosen went to the stage to appeal to everyone to file out together, promising police and security guard protection.

Outside, mounted policemen and more than 100 dismounted but blue-helmeted policemen formed in rows to guard the crowd. Chief O'Connell said after he had sent for 75 extra motorcycle men at 2:45 P.M.

Anti-Castorites Sealed Off

By the hundreds, anti-Castro demonstrators were being walled off by the police at 44th Street, across the traffic island at Broadway and 43rd Street, and south of 42d Street, with two blocks of Broadway barred to traffic.

Amid denunciations from the anti-Castro protesters, the Town Hall spectators made their way down a narrow stairway next to the New York City information center to the IRT and BMT subway lines. Only one woman change-collector was on hand to sell tokens; a police sergeant pitched in to help her until another collector arrived.

George Calvo, a 19-year-old Sunnyside, Queens, member of the Cuban Student Directorate, perched on shoulders of other anti-Castro demonstrators and through a microphone shouted to the police:

"American people, especially New York police, we think you have a right to tell your government what you think. . . . We would like to see the day you Americans and we the Cubans are fighting shoulder to shoulder against the Communist enemy. . . . We don't want to fight you, your horses, the American people."

On 42d Street, individual Cubans implored policemen. "let's just get one or two beards." Patrolman William T. Walsh, 25, of the Tactical Patrol Force, reported two anti-Castro demonstrators swung at him and injured his finger at Broadway and 42d Street.

The two were arrested and

booked as Andre Mondros, 22, a painter, of 600 West 140th Street, and Roberto Villate, 29, a bus boy, of 322 West 89th Street. They were charged with felonious assault, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Earlier, the police had arrested Fred Jerome of 69 East Seventh Street, editor of the monthly periodical of the Progressive Labor Movement, on a charge of felonious assault in the injury to Mr. Alvarez. Two anti-Castro demonstrators charged they had seen Mr. Jerome hit Mr. Alvarez as he was being ejected from Town Hall. Mr. Jerome insisted he was a block away at the time.

Two other anti-Castro demonstrators were arrested on simple assault charges filed by two men after altercations at 43d Street and the Avenue of the Americas. They were booked as Osmundo Rodriguez, 32, of 561 West 143d Street, and Bernard Leon, 49, of 11-31 79th Street, Long Island City, Queens.

Nevertheless the 1,400 Town Hall participants made their way without incident aboard subway trains from the Times Square station, and by 5 P. M. the station was back to its normal air. On the street, policemen began dispersing the last anti-Castro demonstrators. The Paramount Theater movie marquee might have made a fitting caption: "A Tiddish Affair."

300 Riot Police Use Tact and Patience

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

With teamwork and coordination, the city's police kept a dangerous situation under control in Times Square yesterday and prevented anti-Castro demonstrations from erupting into serious violence.

Despite repeated provocation by the more than 1,000 anti-Castro pickets and numerous skirmishes with the demonstrators, they succeeded in maintaining order and protecting the 1,400 persons who attended a Town Hall rally by American students who traveled to Cuba.

Working with precision and efficiency, 100 helmeted, leather-padded motorcycle policemen formed a cordon in Times Square and kept the demonstrators from preventing those who attended the meeting from leaving by subway.

Waves of anti-Castroites shouting at the police as well as the police as well as their political opponents tried vainly to breach the blue-coated lines. Club in hand, the police held fast.

Fifteen mounted policemen wheeled their mounts through the throngs when they became too menacing.

Assistant Chief Inspector Anthony S. O'Connell, head of the Manhattan South uniformed force, was in charge of the police detail.

Egg Hits Inspector

Chief O'Connell ordered approximately 300 policemen on the scene to use tact and patience while maintaining order. They followed his instructions.

He maintained his own patience even when struck by an egg that spattered him and a newspaper reporter at his side.

Assistant Chief Inspector Walter F. Henning, head of the Central Office Bureau and Squads, was in charge of 50 detectives, many of them Spanish-speaking. They circulated among those in Town Hall as well as



Anthony S. O'Connell

among the demonstrators in the street to head off trouble.

One policeman suffered a cut on his hand when two demonstrators threw him down and stepped on him. A police horse was injured when pushed against a parked car on 42d Street east of Broadway. The animal required two stitches. No other injuries to police personnel were reported.

Only five persons were arrested.

The minor accidents and the small number of arrests were in marked contrast to the peaceful rally in Times Square on March 3, 1962, when several persons were injured and 42 arrested.

After the 1962 rally, the police were accused of brutality against the pacifist demonstrators.

In yesterday's incident, the police showed exceptional forbearance in face of repeated sallies by the demonstrators. Several thousand spectators

watched the police efforts to prevent the demonstrations from becoming riots.

Kept off 43d Street between Broadway and the Avenue of the Americas by police barricades, the anti-Castroites roamed all around the perimeter of the restricted area, shouting, singing and surging against the mounted and foot patrolmen.

Beatniks Set Upon

Innocent victims of the demonstrators were passers-by who wore beards, were long-haired or wore beatniktype of clothes. The anti-Castroites seemed to identify the beards with Castro and the long hair and informal garments with Communism.

The police found themselves constantly rushing to the defense of the beatniks set upon by the anti-Castroites. One bearded young man was chased by the demonstrators up the Avenue of the Americas from 44th to 50th Street.

Official preparations for yesterday's demonstrations began a week ago when the Police Department's Intelligence Bureau first heard of the plans for the rally.

Street demonstrators are required to report their plans to the local precinct captain. Chief O'Connell met with the anti-Castro leaders on Saturday and informed them that he would permit 25 pickets across the street from Town Hall.

The clashes with the police resulted when the demonstrators rejected the pleas of their leaders and tried to join the 43d Street pickets.

Transit Authority Police helped those who attended the meeting to leave by subway safely by escorting them across the Times Square station platforms and onto the trains.

A Tactical Police Force emergency bus was stationed at Times Square throughout the day, but its personnel had no occasion to use their riot apparatus.