

Skokie eyes changes in Jewish counter-rally

By Phillip J. O'Connor

Skokie officials have been quietly trying to change plans for a counterdemonstration in Skokie during a planned Nazi rally next Sunday to keep the two groups at least a few blocks apart.

Village officials acted at the urging of state officials seeking to reduce the chances of violence during the Nazi demonstration in front of the suburb's Village Hall.

Tentative plans for the peaceful counterdemonstration, which the sponsoring Jewish umbrella group expects to draw 50,000 persons, call for holding an outdoor meeting at one of the three public high schools in Skokie.

The counterdemonstration is scheduled to

end with a march to the Village Hall, where 125 to 150 leaders of the counterdemonstration plan to read the names of Nazi holocaust victims and to recite prayers.

IT IS THE MARCH to the Village Hall, while the uniformed Nazis are still demonstrating, that state officials oppose because they believe it could trigger violence.

The counterdemonstration is currently scheduled to be held at Niles East Twp. High School, located three blocks from the Village Hall. Law-enforcement officials said they would prefer using Niles West High, about eight blocks away.

Another possibility mentioned by officials would be to change the time of the counter-

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demonstration so that the Nazis and counter-demonstrators would not be acting at the same time.

PRESIDENT ALBERT J. SMITH of Skokie said he has been assured by Gov. Thompson's office that the state police and Illinois National Guard will be available if needed.

Tyrone C. Hahner, director of the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement, when

asked about security plans, said, "We'll have as many men as necessary to keep the peace. If that means state police and National Guardsmen, so be it. We have several alternate plans set up."

Nazi leaders said again Sunday that they might call off the Skokie rally if they win favorable ruling Tuesday from U.S. District Court Judge George N. Leighton, permitting them to hold rallies in Chicago parks at will without posting insurance liability bonds.