

Skokie to Stevens: Halt Nazis

By Tom Fitzpatrick

Village of Skokie officials appealed directly to U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens Friday to block the planned June 25 Nazi march in the heavily Jewish suburb.

Justice Stevens was urged to halt the march while the Supreme Court reviews a formal appeal on the matter already filed by Skokie officials.

"Unless a stay order is granted, the Nazis will conduct their demonstration and the issues raised in this case will have been largely rendered moot," village attorney Harvey Schwartz said.

JUSTICE STEVENS took the request under advisement, but there was no word as to when he might rule on it. He could refer the matter to the full court.

Schwartz told Stevens that the Chicago suburb has 7,000 Jewish survivors of World War II and that 40,500 of the village's 70,000 residents are Jewish.

Schwartz said that Skokie is preparing to protect Frank Collin and his National Socialist Party membership by fully mobilizing its police and by enlisting help from the Illinois National Guard, state police and Cook County sheriff's police as well as police forces from neighboring communities.

The plea to Judge Stevens said that medical emergency vehicles are also being mobilized and hospital emergency services are being prepared.

Cook County Circuit Court is co-operating in making arrangements for transportation of prisoners, facilities for mass arrests, detention areas, and judges and clerks for bonding.

The formal appeal, which probably won't be acted on for several weeks, contends the demonstrations would be "an intentional incitement to riot and a deliberate provocation which does not warrant First Amendment protection."

SCHWARTZ SAID that Collin's group

would not be harmed by a delay, while the village has no alternative but to generate "massive paramilitary operations."

If a stay is granted, Collin can reschedule his demonstration without injury. But if it takes place and the village is proven right, the damage to residents and Holocaust survi-

vors will have been immense, the petition states.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling permitting the march was handed down May 22 by judges who expressed "regret" and "repugnance" at having to rule in favor of the Nazis.

Their decision said a legal victory for the Nazis was "dictated by the fundamental proposition that if these civil rights are to remain vital for all, they must protect not only those society deems acceptable but also those whose ideas it quite justifiably rejects and despises."