

Skokie asks judge to delay order clearing Nazi march

By Dennis D. Fisher

The Village of Skokie asked a federal judge Thursday to delay implementing his order removing legal obstacles to a planned Nazi march in the north suburb next month.

Village Atty. Harvey M. Schwartz said intense interest in the Nazi march and planned counterdemonstrations "pose a threat to the well-being of the village."

Schwartz asked U.S. District Court Judge Bernard M. Decker, who overturned three hastily drawn village ordinances aimed at blocking the march, to hold up implementing his decision until appeals are decided in higher courts.

Meanwhile, Christians were urged by a major interdenominational organization to respond to a Nazi march by wearing armbands bearing a yellow Star of David. The armband campaign, symbolizing solidarity with Jews, was announced by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

"We need to demonstrate to Jews that they do not stand alone at this time," said James W. Rottman, executive director of the group's Chicago and Illinois region. He urged Christians in the Chicago area to wear the Star of David "to church, to work, to school and in their neighborhoods" on the day of a Nazi march.

The National Socialist Party of America, headed by Frank Collin, tentatively plans a march in heavily Jewish Skokie on April 20, Adolf Hitler's birthday. Major Jewish groups are planning a massive counter-rally on that day, or April 22 if the march date is shifted.

LAWYERS FOR SKOKIE and the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union, which defended the Nazis' right to march, will go before Decker Friday to argue whether he should delay his order permitting the march.

"Since the issuance of the court's order, the proposed march has become an international media event," Schwartz said. His chief argument is that if the march is held while Decker's ruling is being appealed there is no point to the appeal.

U.S. Atty. Thomas P. Sullivan, speaking informally with reporters, said his office has under review plans for a federal presence in Skokie if and when the march is held. He compared it to monitoring by federal attorneys and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in Chicago last September as a controversial school building program began.

The Illinois Department of Law Enforcement reported Thursday that contingency plans are being drawn to have state police back up the 119-member Skokie police force if necessary.

THE STAR OF DAVID campaign is part of a nationwide program. Leaders of the National Conference of Christians and Jews are planning parallel events in at least 100 other cities on the same day. Christians in those cities will be asked to gather at a central place and walk together, wearing the yellow star, to a synagogue for a memorial service recalling the Holocaust.

"America is not on the verge of a Nazi take-over," said Donald W. McEvoy, senior vice president of the national conference. He estimated that eight separate Nazi groups in the United States probably have fewer than 2,000 members.