

Skokie streets will be bloody, JDL declares

By Harlan Draeger

The Jewish Defense League Tuesday threatened to "crack heads" to break up a planned Nazi march in north suburban Skokie on April 20.

Bonnie Pechter, JDL national director, said the militant group is rounding up thousands of Jews to stop the march by the National Socialist Party of America.

Ms. Pechter said the New York-based organization already has "commitments" from 2,800 persons in scattered cities to join its anti-Nazi effort in Skokie.

"There will be physical confrontation," she promised at a press conference in the Holiday Inn at 5300 W. Touhy in Skokie. "There will be violence. There will be blood on the streets."

The JDL move runs counter to plans for a massive, peaceful counter-rally that were announced by major Jewish groups here last week.

But Ms. Pechter said the counter-demonstration idea was developed by the same Jews who "sat by in silence," while thousands were shipped daily to gas chambers in Hitler's Germany.



BONNIE PECHTER: "Our people will come prepared. It will not be necessary to come with guns." (Sun-Times Photo)

The JDL leader said her group will first pursue legal avenues to try to halt the planned march of Nazis headed by Chicagoan Frank Collin.

Ms. Pechter said that Collin didn't choose April 20 for the march because it is Hitler's birthday but because it's "right before Passover," the Jewish religious observance on April 22.

Bill Ohlendorf duty officer at Collins' headquarters on the Southwest Side, said, "We will not commit violence unless violence is committed against us. As for 2,800 people, I think she's just blowing a lot of smoke."