

# One peaceful, one militant

# Plan two Nazi responses

By MARY ELLEN COHON

Staff Writer

TWO counterdemonstrations—one peaceful, one militant—are planned for Sunday, June 25, in Skokie.

The peaceful demonstration, organized under the sponsorship of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, will begin with a rally of an expected 50,000 persons at Niles East high school at noon.

A symbolic delegation of 60-100 community leaders will leave the Niles East demonstration to confront Nazi marchers in downtown Skokie, standing vigil to recite the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, and the names of the death camps where 6 million Jews and 5 million non-Jews were killed.

WHILE THE delegation represents them in the downtown area, demonstrators are expected to participate in a march through the village in a route being designed with cooperation of the police to avoid a confrontation with the Nazis.

The second demonstration, planned by the National Jewish Defense League (JDL) is a "physical confrontation" not a counterdemonstration according to Bonnie Pechter, president of the militant Jewish group headquartered in New York City. Pechter told the LIFE

she feels deaths in this confrontation are quite possible and said she expects the affair to be "very bloody."

Unveiling plans for the peaceful demonstration, Sol Goldstein, Skokie survivor of the holocaust, speaking for the Jewish Federation said on Wednesday, June 14, that they will welcome

anyone interested in peaceful demonstration in memory of those who died at the hands of the Nazis.

BECAUSE OF problems of parking in the area of Niles East, Goldstein said that special service has been arranged on the Skokie Swift with chart-

er bus service from the Swift terminal to Niles East. Buses also will be available for transportation from synagogues and Jewish community Centers throughout the city and suburbs and from O'Hare field,

Anticipating possibility of a very hot

# Plan two Nazi march counterdemonstrations

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day, the Federation has arranged for a field hospital staffed with volunteer nurses and doctors, and a medical trailer from Mt. Sinai hospital. Emergency rooms at Skokie Valley hospital and Lutheran General hospital have been alerted.

Also present will be legal observers from the Decalogue society of lawyers to help insure that counterdemonstrators are not deprived of their civil rights.

GOLDSTEIN EXPLAINED that a force of about 200 marshals, most of them volunteer off-duty law enforcement officers, will be present to help keep order. "We expect the crowd to be self-policed—we are counting on the people to police themselves," said Eugene DuBow, coordinator of the Skokie project. DuBow said the Federation would "not welcome anyone coming to do violence."

David Smerling, president of the Jewish United Fund and the Jewish Federation said that if the Nazi march is called off before Thursday, June 22, the counterdemonstration probably will be called off as well. He said the organization has been "struggling with the decision" of how late the counterdemonstration can be cancelled. If the Nazis cancel their march after Thursday it is probable that "something" may be held, Smerling said.

Officials of the Federation repeatedly explained that they felt as long as so many thousands of people are expected to pour into Skokie on June 25, it is necessary for the responsible Jewish community to make plans for them rather than let the visitors simply roam at random.

LEADERS OF several organizations participating in the demonstration consistently predict that a total of 50,000 counterdemonstrators will be present in Skokie.

Erna Gans, president of the Holocaust survivors of Skokie and the Dr. Janusz Korczak B'nai Brith lodge has estimated that about 10,000 out-of-area demonstrators are expected.

Pechter told The LIFE she has a commitment from about 4,000 members of the national JDL to be in Skokie for June 25. Every state except Alaska and Hawaii plans to send representatives, she said.

Cans' group is working to arrange sleeping accommodations, mostly in sleeping bags, in area synagogues and churches. They also are planning ahead for first aid, sanitation, hospitals, and legal assistance.

"WE DEFINITELY do have plans," she said. "We are working with the village and with the Jewish Federation."

Cans also predicted that vice president Walter Mondale and Gov. James Thompson may join the march. The vice president's scheduling office in Washington D.C. reported that Mondale has received an invitation but has not yet declined or accepted. It is not yet on the calendar of the vice president, a spokesperson for the vice president said.

Similar word came from the governor's office in Springfield where the governor was reported "undecided" about coming to Skokie.

David Hamlin, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union

(ACLU) said, "While I would like to join the counterdemonstration, I don't think I would be very welcome. We do plan to send a representative however." Attorneys from the ACLU have fought for the Nazi's right to demonstrate under the First amendment.

ANOTHER ORGANIZATION planning peaceful participation is the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates, and Nazi Victims, Inc., an umbrella group of survivor associations throughout the country.

Adele Grubart, executive director of the New York-based group, told The LIFE that the purpose of its delegation to Skokie will be to "state our cause but not through violence. It is true that they say an eye for an eye, but destroying someone else's eye is not going to make us see better. We will stand up and be counted for the brotherhood of man."

The American federation is made up of survivors who are former partisans and resistance group workers as well as camp inmates.

Stuart Feller, local JDL leader, said that his group is planning a massive "sit down" in the streets to keep the Nazis from marching in Skokie. He called on Jews to "sit down and not let this happen."

"WE DON'T ask them to fight," Feiler said, "but to stand or sit, side by side and not let anyone walk into our community that we don't want there."

If the police or National Guard clear the street, Feiler said "I can't tell you anything more except we are dedicated to the proposition that the Nazis will not march in Skokie."

Feiler said the JDL hopes to accomplish its purpose without bloodshed but that he worries lest "some survivor or someone else will walk in and shoot somebody . . . someone who is dedicated to violence as a first resort."

Feiler is spending much time attempting to make arrangements for food and housing for about 3,000 JDL members who will be coming into town probably by Friday, June 23.

New members and aid, including financial help, are being solicited at 965-5256.

BUZZ ALPERT leader of a separate Chicago JDL faction, which apparently has broken with Feller and the national groups, said, "If the Nazis come to Skokie we will be there as we always said we would. We are prepared to face them head-on."

Alpert said his group "will not fight with the police but will do their utmost to stop this rape of the First amendment."

"We feel," he said, that the "judges in this country who have dealt with this First amendment issue are the same as the judges in Nazi Germany who ruled on the Nuremberg laws."

Pechter, who heads the national JDL insists "We don't believe in counterdemonstrations, this is a physical confrontation."

She said her anticipated 4,000 members are "coming in buses, cars, chartered planes . . . people are even hitchhiking."

Pechter said the meeting place of her group has not been decided but that people will pour into downtown Skokie from "all directions" to con-

verge on the village hall area.

"We will not be armed . . . this is not necessary," she said, explaining that she felt "sheer numbers" will do the job. Pechter said she "feels badly about the bystanders" and urged that "older people and children stay to the back and leave the front to those who will fight."

She insists that "it is very sad that the establishment Jewish community is dealing with this on an intellectual level. The Nazis aren't afraid of people with little placards. They are only afraid of being hospitalized or dead."

Recalling last winter's confrontation in St. Louis, Pechter said that angry crowds with bottles, stones and snowballs turned the Nazis around.

ALTHOUGH, SHE insists, "nobody deplores violence more than the JDL, this is the number one day for Jews in America to see how they respond to violence. The whole world will be watching to see how Jews react when attacked. They never would have picked an Italian neighborhood. They are scared of Blacks and Italians."

"The JDL, she continued "is not a violent group, but we stand up when we have to. Turning the other cheek is not the Jewish way. We are not Christians. Nazism is synonymous with death to Jews. We must show the world that 'Never Again' is more than just rhetoric."

"OUR FIGHT" is not with the mayor or Skokie or with the police, it is with the Nazis," she said. And members of the JDL accept the fact that if they break the law they will have to "pay the price."

Pechter said that if, "at the last minute-say within 24 hours of the march-the Nazis change their minds," the JDL volunteers will come to the area anyhow and the planned defensive march will become an offensive march to Nazi headquarters. She criticized Skokie for not putting up a bigger fight in the courts saying this was only a "polite lawsuit."

"There should have been thousands at the Supreme court and at village hall." She said Jews have been at the forefront of the 1960's battles for the blacks, puerto ricans, farm workers and every other cause. "If we feel other causes are important enough to go to jail for, our own cause should get equal time."