



ARMS RACE DEMONSTRATORS MARCH IN LOS ANGELES SUNDAY AFTERNOON
 . . . Display signs, inflatable whale calling for global disarmament

Peace Movement Starts Biggest Assault Ever On Arms Buildup

By JUDY GIBBS
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Marches, speeches, bicycle tours and foot races are serving as forums for blasting the bomb as Americans observe Ground Zero Week — the new peace movement's biggest assault so far on the buildup of nuclear arms.

In one of numerous exercises to demonstrate the effects of a nuclear bomb on an American city, a siren wailed in Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati and bicyclists, joggers and at least one man in a wheelchair scattered to see how far away they could get from a red "x" marking the symbolic center of the attack.

But most of the 200 people present just stood there. "This probably will be the way they react to the real thing," said Anne Bernard Becker, who chaired Cincinnati's Ground Zero Organizing Committee.

Along the route of today's Boston Marathon, signs will detail the destruction that would occur at each point if a nuclear bomb were to explode over the finish line.

Later this week, runners in Salt Lake City and Winston-Salem, N.C., will race to see how far they could get from "ground zero" in the half-hour of advance warning residents would get before a nuclear attack.

Children's anti-nuclear letters to President Reagan were to be read at a rally today in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza.

On Saturday, bicyclists in Missouri will trace a 370-mile ring around Whiteman Air Force Base. A nuclear strike would kill half the population inside the circle, organizers said.

Most atomic warheads are designed to explode in the air, and ground zero is the term used to describe the point on the ground directly beneath the explosion. It was the name taken by the Washington-based anti-nuclear lobby that began organizing Ground Zero Week two years ago.

Two brothers, Roger and Earl Molander, started the Ground Zero movement. The idea "took off on its own," said Earl Molander. "There's a lot of interest on the local level, which is where nuclear war would be felt."

"If this were ground zero, a one-megaton nuclear explosion would instantly destroy virtually everything within two miles of this spot," declared a banner unfurled Sunday at a downtown Atlanta rally.

"The living will envy the dead," read a sign at a Phoenix rally that drew 600.

Elsewhere on Sunday, protesters held rallies from Texas to North Dakota.

In Los Angeles, about 200 people carrying a whale-

shaped balloon reading "Save the Humans," marched through Exposition Park before gathering for a rally at the University of Southern California.

But in New York, activities got off to a slow start when only one of eight runners scheduled to "Run for Peace" participated. The others were at a track meet out of town.

The lone runner made it from 42nd Street to Columbia University, at 116th Street, in less than half an hour. Concerts, lectures, and slide shows were held throughout the day at Columbia.

Sunday's events and the week of anti-nuclear activities they heralded are aimed at awakening Americans from "a state of dangerous apathy" toward nuclear war, said Dr. John Mack, a Harvard medical School psychiatry professor who spoke at a forum in Boston.

There is a "tidal wave of interest" in America in the danger of nuclear war, Rep. Jonathan Bingham, D-N.Y., told an anti-nuclear gathering at Columbia University in New York City.

In North Dakota, where part of the U.S. nuclear arsenal lies buried in missile silos, a Nobel Peace Prize winner told 600 marchers in Grand Forks, "I'm sick and tired of listening to academic, intellectual minds telling me the buildup of arms is for our defense."

"That's nonsense," said Betty Williams, who was awarded the 1977 Nobel prize for work in Northern Ireland. "The buildup of arms is for our death and destruction."

The United States should take the first step toward nuclear disarmament by destroying one of North Dakota's Minuteman missiles, said the Rev. Robert Branconnier, a Catholic priest active in the anti-war movement in the 1960s. He said that would put world pressure on the Soviet Union to do the same.

In Portland, Ore., a retired Navy admiral called the anti-nuclear movement "a great hope."

"You must in human conscience stand up and be counted for human survival," retired Vice Adm. John M. Lee told 1,000 people at Lewis and Clark College. Lee retired in 1973 after three years as assistant director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

A simulated nuclear bomb was "detonated" on the steps of the Texas Capitol following a march that drew 3,000 protesters.

Civil defense strategies were scored in Pittsburgh and Boston.

"It is futile to prepare for a nuclear blast. It gives the politicians the idea that we think a nuclear war is survivable," said Dr. Edward Miller, a member of the Physicians for Social Responsibility, at a rally in Pittsburgh's Market Square.