Guard Opens Fire

4 Students Slain At Anti-War Rally On Ohio Campus

From AP and NYT Dispatches

KENT, Ohio—Four students at Kent State University were shot to death yesterday afternoon when Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire while trying to break up an anti-war rally on the campus. Twelve other persons, including two guardsmen, were hospitalized with injuries.

The burst of gunfire came about 20 minutes after the guardsmen began to disperse the crowd of about 1,000 that was holding the unauthorized rally on the Commons, a campus gathering spot.

The guardsmen first used tear gas and were met with a hail of rocks. An estimated 40 troops opened fire after they were shot at by a sniper, a state official said.

"They were under standing orders to take cover and return any fire," said Frederick P. Wenger, assistant adjutant general of the guards.

A New York Times reporter, who was with the group of students, said he did not see any indication of sniper fire before the guard volley. Students heat-edly denied that there was any sniper:

Kent State students, angered by the expansion of the war into Cambodia, had held demonstrations the previous three nights. On Saturday night, the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps building was burned and the guard was called in and martial law declared.

University President Robert I. White yesterday ordered the university closed indefinitely and officials made plans to evacuate the dormitories and bus out-of-state students to nearby cities.

Gov. James A. Rhodes called on the FBI for help in probing the disorders at this 18,000-student campus in Northeastern Ohio.

In Washington, President Nixon issued a statement about the incident.

"This should remind us all once again that when dissent turns to violence it invites tragedy," the President said.

"It is my hope that this tragic and unfortunate incident will strengthen the determination of all the nation's campuses, administrators, faculty and students alike, to stand firmly for the right which exists in this country of peaceful dissent and just as strongly against the resort to violence as a means of such expression.

The White House said there was a possibility of a Justice Department investigation. As to a possible federal intervention, the White House said that would only come at the request of Gov. Rhodes.

Split Into 2 Groups

Yesterday's rally, called after a night in which police and guardsmen drove students into their dormitories and made 69 arrests, began as students rang the iron victory bell on the Commons, normally used to herald football victories. A National Guard jeep drove on to the Commons, and an officer ordered the crowd to disperse. Then several canisters of tear gas were fired, and the students scrambled up the hill that borders the area and retreated into buildings.

A platoon of guardsmen—armed, as they have been since they arrived here, with loaded M-1 rifles and tear gas equip-
KENT STATE students give aid to a youth injured during yesterday's clash between college protesters and National Guardsmen.
opposed the alert reportedly being pelleted with rocks.

Later, four students were shot to death when the guardsmen

CHIFF OF TEAP GAS JUH OVER THE CAMPUS OF KENT STATE

TTED PRIS
29 college presidents ask quick end to role in Asia

By ROBERT D. McADDEN
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NEW YORK—The presidents of 29 colleges and universities yesterday urged President Nixon to “demonstrate unequivocally your determination to end the war quickly.”

The signers, representing many of the nation’s leading academic institutions, “urgently” requested a meeting with Mr. Nixon.

The letter was drafted by Dr. James M. Hester, president of New York University, and bore the signatures, among others, of the presidents of Princeton University, Columbia University, the University of Notre Dame, Dartmouth College, the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University.

In Washington, the leaders of the National Student Association and the Vietnam Moratorium Committee called for a nationwide student strike of indefinite duration, starting today, to protest the war and to mobilize public opinion for a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Indochina.

Even as the call for a student strike went out, anti-war groups at dozens of colleges and universities began demonstrations and rallies to protest the administration’s policies.

There were strike pledges from at least 100 colleges and universities, and at some schools the strike began yesterday.

At many schools, the student strike was officially sanctioned by college administrations.

Editorials urging a class boycott appeared in many campus newspapers, with the Yale Daily News the only exception in the prestigious Ivy League.

Most Strikes Peaceful

“Look elsewhere for strategies to end the war and domestic political repression,” a News editorial said instead. “The week after commencement should be turned into a week of discussions among students, faculty, administrators and alumni over the problems of the war and legal justice.”

While most protests were peaceful, hundreds of police used riot gas last night to quell disorders on the University of Maryland campus, and National Guardsmen were moved into the area on an alert basis.

Law enforcement officials, who had allowed students to block a section of U.S. 1 for about six hours, waded into and pushed back a crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators who were throwing bottles and other objects.

What was termed the largest disruption in Stanford University’s history was marked by a strike that involved students and faculty members. Whole departments, including the School of Law, voted to discontinue classes.

Strikes were also reported under way at the University of Notre Dame and its sister school, St. Mary’s College; the University of Rhode Island, Rutgers, Drew and Fairleigh Dickinson in New Jersey, Wooster College in Ohio, and at Princeton University, where the boycott was said to have been 95 per cent effective.

Strikes are being planned at the University of Pennsylvania, Sarah Lawrence and Bryn Mawr colleges, Brandeis University, the University of Virginia, Georgetown University and others.

At Berkeley, Calif., demonstrators burned an Army truck and raised a blazing American flag on a pole at the University of California, Mr. Nixon was burned in effigy by students on the Austin campus of the University of Texas.

Vice President Spiro Agnew said last night that disorders at Kent State University in Ohio in which four young people were killed show that his statements against violent dissent were correct.

“In several recent speeches I have called attention to the grave dangers which accompany the new politics of violence and confrontation and which have found so much favor on our college campuses,” Agnew told the American Retail Federation, in Washington.

Agnew also said an intellectual counterattack must be mounted against “the smug purveyors of mockery and scorn” who have levied a barrage of cynicism against the principles of the United States.