

Police arrest 32 in demonstration

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SANTA CRUZ — Police arrested 32 persons for blocking the entrances to the Internal Revenue Service building Tuesday in protest of U.S. aid to Nicaraguan contras and the bombing of Libya.

The blockade had been planned in advance for the April 15 tax deadline as a means of drawing attention to the Reagan Administration's push for \$100 million in military aid to rebels seeking to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

But, Monday night's bombing of Libya by U.S. aircraft gave the 200 demonstrators, including Mayor Michael Rotkin and City Councilwoman Jane Weed, something else to protest.

Rotkin spoke about the connection between aid to the contras and the bombing of Libya. "The connection is arrogance of power," he said. "Ronald Reagan thinks he can decide what's good for the world."

Everyone, Rotkin says, abhors terrorism. "But, rather than trying to understand the causes and get to the root of the problem, the administration has decided to bomb innocent people." Rotkin called the bombing "dangerous" and "stupid."

Weed termed the U.S. bombing of Libya an act of terrorism. She said the Reagan Administration "has been cooking war on all corners of the world."

The U.S. government, she said, will be remembered for being best at making war and playing with the toys of war.

Rotkin likened Tuesday's demonstration to those opposing the Vietnam War. Congress, he said, will not take the lead so it must be pressured to represent the views of the people. "There was massive opposition to the Vietnam war, but it kept going until people took to the streets."

Some people, he said, can only make telephone calls or write letters. "That's all right," he said. "Others will decide 'today's the day I can't be pushed any further. I'm going to make a stand involving personal risk.'"

Neither Rotkin, who was arrested last spring at an anti-apartheid



Pete Amos/Sentinel

Protester is led away by police at IRS building

protest at UCSC, nor Weed were among the 32 arrested Tuesday.

Carrying wooden crosses with names of Nicaraguans the protesters said were killed by contra attacks, marchers went from the courthouse to the IRS building across the street.

After demonstrators blocked the doorways for a half hour before police moved in and began making the arrests for trespassing. Among those led away was David Mac-Millan, a minister with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and feminist Ann Simonton.

In addition to trespassing, Simonton was cited for malicious mischief for pouring a vial of what she said was her blood on the sidewalk in front of the building and for resisting arrest when she went limp as of-

ficers tried to lead her to a waiting van.

Police Sgt. Sandy Sanderson said those arrested included 30 adults and

two juveniles. Eighteen adults, he said, were cited and released. Twelve were booked into jail when they refused release.

