

PICKETS HARASS PRO-SOVIET RALLY

200 Jeer and Toss Missiles— Rev. W. H. Melish and Paul Robeson Are Targets

Jeering, missile-throwing anti-Soviet pickets provided a turbulent accompaniment for a meeting of the National Council of the American-Soviet Friendship Association here last night.

The Rev. William Howard Melish and Paul Robeson, the singer, were special targets as they entered and left the Pythian Temple, 135 West Seventieth Street, where the rally was held. They were speakers for the evening.

The pickets, who totaled about 200 at peak strength, were mostly Hungarians and Hungarian-Americans. They shouted "Freedom for Hungary," "America will never be friends with murderers" and other denunciations at about 800 persons who participated in the meeting and almost everyone else who entered the temple.

Eggs, tomatoes, ammonia-filled bottles and sticks were thrown but caused no injuries. A bottle thrown as Mr. Robeson arrived for the gathering fell harmlessly on the pavement.

A detail of 250 patrolmen, mounted policemen and detectives kept the placard-waving demonstrators in check and escorted persons to and from the building.

Mr. Robeson was flanked by policemen as he arrived and departed. He was shepherded for a block on leaving and boarded a taxi on Broadway still harassed by a number of pickets.

The demonstrators began assembling at 7 o'clock and stayed

in reduced numbers until the friendship session ended at 10:15.

In his speech, Mr. Robeson, who did not arrive until the last half hour of the meeting, hailed the achievements of the Soviet Union and credited many of the social gains of Negroes in the United States to the influence of Soviet example and pressure.

Mr. Melish referred to Soviet "armed coercion" in Hungary and deplored the oppressions and defects of the Soviet system. He likewise alluded to Guatemala, the British and French invasion of Egypt and said "all of us are compromised."

He, nevertheless, insisted that Americans must strive to achieve peaceful coexistence and friendship with the Soviet Union and said that "to despair and to gear ourselves to the inevitability of a third world war would be hysterical nonsense."

Dr. Harry F. Ward spoke in similar vein. Richard Morford was chairman of the meeting, and a Jewish youth group sang Russian and American songs. Mr. Robeson ended his talk with an unaccompanied song.

Photographers took numerous pictures of the audience, and many present shielded their faces from the cameras with hands, leaflets and newspapers.

While the rally was under way, a number of Masonic groups and a lodge of the Knights of Pythias were meeting in different parts of the building. The pickets indiscriminately taunted all who came and left.

A Pythian spokesman pointed out that his order did not own the building and had nothing to do with the American-Soviet gathering. He expressed indignation that permission had been granted for the rally.

Emanuel Goldstein, building manager, said he had not known beforehand the nature of the American-Soviet friendship group and insisted it would not be permitted to use the building again.

He said the structure was owned by a corporation whose stock was widely held.

Meanwhile, the Assembly of Captive European Nations ended a two-day session here yesterday with the adoption of a resolution condemning Soviet subjugation and "ruthless colonial exploitation" of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Rumania.

The assembly asked the United Nations General Assembly to declare the Soviet Union in violation of the United Nations Charter and to insist on freedom for these countries.