



GENERAL ORDER



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**Procedures for Handling Demonstrations
Directed at Foreign Governments**

DISTRIBUTION

A

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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The purpose of this order is to set forth the procedures to be followed by members of the department when handling demonstrations directed at foreign governments. The department's authority to enforce applicable laws and regulations around buildings owned and occupied by foreign governments shall not be affected by the contents of this order. Members shall be guided by General Order No. 309.1 (Barricade/Hostage Situation and Other Unusual Incidents) when circumstances require. This order consists of the following parts:

**PART I Responsibilities and Procedures for
Members of the Department.**

- A. Legal Authority and Considerations.
- B. Procedures for Members.

**PART II Responsibilities and Procedures for
Supervisory and Command Personnel.**

- A. Supervisory Personnel.
- B. District Watch Commanders.
- C. Director, Communications Division.
- D. Patrol Operations Officer.
- E. Watch Commander,
Special Operations Division (SOD).
- F. Commanding Officer,
Special Operations Division.
- G. District or Division Commanders.
- H. Director, Intelligence Division.

PART I

A. Legal Authority and Considerations.

1. Title 18, Section 112 of the United States Code, addresses the issues dealing with demonstrations directed at foreign governments. Contained in this law are provisions that prohibit certain activities within 100 feet of a building used for official purposes by a foreign government.

2. The law, referred to as the "100-Foot Rule," carries a misdemeanor sentence for whoever willfully:

- a. Intimidates, coerces, threatens, or harasses a foreign official or an official guest or obstructs a foreign official in the performance of his/her duties;

- b. Attempts to intimidate, coerce, threaten, or harass a foreign official or an official guest or obstruct a foreign official in the performance of his/her duties;
- c. Acts to carry out the provisions outlined in Part DA2a and b within the United States and within 100 feet of any building or premises in whole or in part owned, used, or occupied for official business or for diplomatic, consular, or residential purposes by a foreign government, an international organization, a foreign official, or an official guest; or
- d. Congregates with two or more other persons with the intent to violate any other provision of this section.

NOTE: A congregation must consist of at least three persons

3. Members who respond to these incidents should be able to recognize activities that are a threat to peace. The United States Supreme Court has defined "threat to peace" as "whether normal embassy activities have been or are about to be disrupted." The Court has further indicated that peaceful demonstrations are not the focus of these protective laws, but rather, these laws are intended to limit the actions of groups posing a security threat.

B. Procedures for Members.

1. Members shall allow individuals to display signs within 100 feet of an embassy or other building used for official purposes by a foreign government, whether or not the signs are critical of that government.

2. Members may arrest an individual demonstrator who commits a criminal violation, but may not invoke the 100-Foot Rule against that person in lieu of arrest.

3. The first officer arriving on the scene of a demonstration directed at any protected foreign government premises shall:

- a. Determine if any violations of law have occurred;
- b. Take appropriate police action when necessary;
- c. Notify an official of the situation; and
- d. If possible, remain on the scene until relieved by a responding official.

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PART II

A. Supervisory Personnel.

Upon notification that a congregation of three or more people is demonstrating in the vicinity of a building used by a foreign government for official purposes, the official shall:

1. Respond to the scene and monitor the conditions of the demonstration;
2. Allow peaceful and non-disruptive demonstration(s) to continue;
3. Invoke the 100-Foot Rule when it is reasonably believed that the congregation or group poses a threat to the security and/or peace of the premises. Individuals in the group remain subject to arrest for criminal acts at any time;
4. Notify the district watch commander and apprise him/her of the conditions on the scene;
5. Remain on the scene as the field commander until relieved by the district watch commander or Special Operations Division (SOD) official.

B. District Watch Commanders.

District watch commanders shall:

1. Designate an official to serve as field commander;
2. Upon being notified of a demonstration directed at a foreign government at a protected premises, immediately notify the Watch Commander, Communications Division; and
3. Be responsible for the duties of the Watch Commander, Special Operations Division, in his/her absence.

C. Director, Communications Division.

The Director/Watch Commander, Communications Division, upon notification of a demonstration directed at a foreign government shall notify:

1. The Patrol Operations Officer;
2. The Watch Commander, Special Operations Division; and
3. The Director, Intelligence Division.

D. Patrol Operations Officer.

The Patrol Operations Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all affected department elements comply with the provisions of this order.

E. Watch Commander, Special Operations Division (SOD).

The Watch Commander, SOD, shall:

1. Along with the official/officer on the scene from the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division, identify the respective areas of police responsibility with regard to the activities of the demonstrators.
2. Be responsible for ensuring that the rights of the demonstrators and the safety and security of the premises and its personnel are protected in those areas within the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.
3. In situations involving a group, immediately determine the identity of the leader of the group and advise him/her of the specific areas in which the group may demonstrate, and their proper conduct, rights and responsibilities.
4. When necessary to ensure normal pedestrian and vehicular traffic, limit the number of demonstrators on the sidewalk directly in front of or across the street from any foreign government's protected premises. Demonstrators shall be kept back and maintained in small groups.
5. Establish a police line(s) to provide a security zone for access to and from the premises when a protectee or head of state is arriving or departing.
6. Establish a police line(s) to separate opposing demonstrators/groups where conflict may occur. This also applies to embassy personnel.
7. Ensure that demonstrators who pose a security threat or who disrupt or are about to disrupt the normal embassy activities are prevented from demonstrating within 100 feet of the premises.
 - a. Demonstrators who have rocks, bottles, etc., shall be immediately stopped and directed to the 100-foot location.
 - b. If a peaceful demonstration becomes violent or disruptive, demonstrators shall be directed to the 100-foot location and order shall be restored immediately.
 - c. Demonstrators who have weapons which are in violation of the law shall be arrested immediately.

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F. Commanding Officer, Special Operations Division.

The Commanding Officer, Special Operations Division, shall be responsible for:

1. Ensuring that the provisions of this order are adhered to with regard to demonstrations at embassies and the protected premises of foreign governments.

2. Incorporating a specific notation for demonstrations at embassies in the monthly Federal Manhours on Details Report to the Patrol Operations Officer.

G. District or Division Commanders.

District or division commanders shall ensure that members of their command are familiar with, and in compliance with, the contents of this order.

H. Director, Intelligence Division.

The Director, Intelligence Division, shall be responsible for gathering information and investigating all occurrences at protected premises.

Isaac Fulwood, Jr.
Chief of Police

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