

# Concord Protesters Expect a Weapon Train Today

By Marc Sandalow

Anti-war protesters said yesterday that the Navy is prepared to roll a train down the tracks at the Concord Naval Weapons station today for the first time since S. Brian Willson was struck and maimed a week ago.

Members of Nuremberg Action, the group that began the demonstrations outside the weapons station on June 10, are gearing up for a confrontation and say there will be at least 50 protesters on hand to block the train.

Group spokesman Chuck Good-

macher said that they were told of the Navy's plans by Marine Major Mike Warren, in charge of security at the weapons station, who said "they were going to start the trains on Tuesday."

Goodmacher said the Navy has been using trucks to transport munitions since the train ran over Willson last week.

Weapons station spokesman Dan Tikalsky said he had no knowledge of any plans to resume train transportation, but he said the protests would not prevent the weapons station from functioning.

"The weapons station has a vi-

tal national defense mission to perform, and we'll perform that mission in a way that we will not have a repeat of September 1," he said.

Willson, 46, a Vietnam veteran, lost both his legs and suffered serious head injuries last Tuesday when a train failed to stop on the tracks where he was sitting in a protest of U.S. arms shipments to Central America.

On Saturday, a faction among the 5,000 protesters at the site ripped up 100 yards of track outside the weapons station. The tracks were still torn up yesterday.

Goodmacher said he does not expect a repeat of last week's tragedy today, but he said that some protesters may be arrested to clear the train tracks. In part because of Willson's plight, Goodmacher said that he expected a steady flow of protesters at the Concord facility for at least a couple of months.

Also yesterday, Willson's wife, Holley Rauhen, dismissed the Navy's suggestion that a change in tactics by the demonstrators was in part responsible for the September 1 incident. Rauhen said that statements made by Navy officials imply that demonstrators in previous protests have remained on the tracks until the last minute and then jumped off.

"The statement is a lie," Rauhen said yesterday in a telephone interview outside her husband's room in John Muir Hospital in Walnut

Creek. "No one has ever been on the track and then jumped off. It has never happened that way."

Instead, she said, protesters have always been several feet from the tracks. In last week's protest, the Navy had ample warning that protesters planned to be on the tracks, blocking the train's passage, she said.

Rauhen said her husband is in "excellent spirits," but she is fighting a constant battle to keep well-wishers at bay. He is being fitted with artificial legs and hopes he will be released from the hospital and begin physical therapy by the end of this week.

Among thousands of letters and telegrams her husband has received from around the world, Rauhen said, was a letter of support from Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who is seeking Democratic nomination for president.

P. 3A. Chron. Tues. 9-8-81