

Flag seized in row

Irish Independent
Reporter

RIVAL demonstrators taunted each other in a 20-minute verbal battle in pouring rain last night outside the Shannon Shamrock Hotel, Bunnahincha, where the Springboks are staying.

Gardai kept the two groups apart as violence threatened after Anti-Apartheid supporters shouting "fascist scum" and "Nazi collaborators out," grabbed the Tricolour which was being carried by members of the Limerick Branch of the National Movement, an extreme right-wing organisation.

Thirty members of the organisation had marched in the rain from Limerick to Bunnahincha and at the end of their 90 minutes walk they confronted the Anti-Apartheid demonstrators, who had a strong picket outside the hotel.

There were hot words on both sides but Gardai prevented trouble after the Tricolour had been seized.

' Communist thugs '

A small number of Springbok's team members watched from the entrance to the hotel. "We have nothing against you personally, only against the evil of your racial system," the Secretary of the Limerick Anti-Apartheid branch, Mr. James Kemmy, told them.

Members of the National Movement shouting cries of "Communist thugs" brought a letter of welcome in the Shannon Shamrock to the Springboks Tour Manager, Mr. Corrie Bornmann.

The secretary of the Limerick branch of the Movement, Mr. John Buckley, who handed a letter to Mr. Bornmann, said the tour manager had expressed delight and had said that the tours would continue, and that he did not take any notice of the demonstration.

Outside the hotel as the rival groups tried to get at each other, members of the National Movement tore copies of the "Peking Review" and portraits of the Chinese leader, Mao Tse Tsung.

THE CIVIL SERVICE: What's wrong?

Without Ireland's 35,000 Civil Servants this State could not function.

By anyone's standards, the Civil Service is big business, but, according to a Special Correspondent of the Irish Independent, it is "an ailing business, a creaking machine".

In three articles, commencing today, he will detail his reasons for this assertion. The first article appears on Page Eight.