

Anti-Castro Cracker Just Puff of Smoke

By GEOFFREY JAMES

A glorified firecracker went up in a puff of smoke near the Cuban pavilion yesterday afternoon, scaring a security guard but harming no one.

The device — three magnesium capsules, wires and a clock — detonated beneath a bridge 30 feet from the pavilion's exit ramp several minutes before a telephone bomb threat vowing "death to all Communists."

The home-made squib, which was wrapped in brown paper, went off around 3.45 p.m., to be followed by the threatening call to the Montreal office of United Press International.

"I have a statement to accompany the bomb," said a voice described as calm and apparently Spanish-accented. "It is: 'Death to all Communists. Long live Cuba.'"

At the Cuban pavilion, where the "bomb" was barely audible, no threatening calls were received.

"It was just a little firecracker," said the hostess who answered the phones all afternoon. "We didn't worry about it at all."

Worried or not, pavilion officials subjected their frail-looking three-storey building to a hands-and-knees search after the 9.30 p.m. closing time.

One man who was worried for a time was an Expo se-

curity guard who noticed the brown package beside the bridge that runs between the Cuban pavilion and the Man the Producer Theme building.

When he saw the wires and clock inside the bag, the guard dropped his find and fled. Seconds later, the device detonated with a bang, a flash and a puff of smoke.

"It was more smoke than anything else," said a young man who works in a bookstore beneath the Man the Producer building. "Someone must have thrown the thing from the canal."

Security police think the same thing. Earlier they had been put on the alert when a gondola operator reported two suspicious-looking men had disembarked from his boat.

He said they had a paper bag when they boarded the gondola, but it disappeared when they left it.

Meantime, in Miami, the Cuban Nationalist Association took credit for the Cuban pavilion incident by announcing that anti-Castro secret agents had "attacked" it.

Dr. Miguel San Pedro, filling in as head of the Miami-based group while Felipe Rivero is in jail, said the "operation was carried out despite extensive vigilance of the G-2 agents of the Cuban Communist government."