

Thant cancels 'Africa' tour after bazooka shell found

By VICTOR STEINBERG

A 20-inch-long bazooka shell attached to a clock and battery, found by chance near Expo's African Village yesterday, was defused six minutes before the time set for it to "explode" — and about 45 minutes before UN Secretary General U Thant was due to start a tour of the African complex.

The tour was cancelled.

The shell was handed over to the Montreal police bomb squad for laboratory examination to determine whether it was live.

Then in the evening Thant quietly slipped out of Commissioner-General Pierre Dupuy's Habitat '67 apartment where he was staying in a second incident in which a note was found and the Habitat complexes searched — with nothing found.

The note, written on paper tissue, was found attached to a small fire alarm box near Apt. 524 at Habitat.

It read: "Habitat 67 Exp. at No. 93C" — an exhibit apartment in a wing away from the two Dupuy suites.

Officials cleared the modern housing development immediately.

The CBC was forced to interrupt its Sunday at the Fair radio program being broadcast live from Habitat.

Armed Forces' personnel combed the building in case an explosive charge was present.

Paper wrapped

A City of Montreal maintenance employe had happened earlier upon the paper-wrapped bomb near the African village.

It was placed under a bush 20 feet away from the African buildings on the bank of the canal which faces the Czechoslovakia pavilion.

The worker notified Expo security guards, who called Montreal police. It was 4:20 p.m. when the armed forces bomb squad was alerted.

The area was cordoned off while Lieutenant Frederick Cox and Petty Officer R. Connelly of the Royal Canadian Navy dismantled the electrical system. The clock was set for 5 p.m.

The armed forces' members then removed the device, a bazooka shell, from the site.

Same type

A member of the squad said last night the shell was

the same type as that discovered April 8 this year in an east-end Montreal backyard at 1185 Champlain street.

The metal tube in which that live Bazooka shell was found bore the slogan "Washington No, Moscow No, Cuba Yes."

The yard is near the Montreal entrance to the Jacques Cartier Bridge which gives access to the St. Helen's Island section of the fair.

The fair has been threatened with acts of sabotage by anti-Castro Cuban refugees to protest the Cuban government's participation in the exposition.

Felipe Rivero, leader of the Cuban nationalistic movement who resides in Miami, has claimed that his group was responsible for a similar bazooka attack on the Cuban embassy in Ottawa last October.

Mr. Thant was to arrive at Africa Place at 5:40 p.m. yesterday by La Ballade.