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TEN CENTS

Fired From 'Bazooka' in Queens Shot That Shook the UN



BAZOOKA AND TARGET—A police sergeant peers at the bazooka that fired a projectile at the UN (in background), 900 yards across the East River. The shot fell in the water, about 300 yards short of its goal.

Cuban Pickets Cut Down Flag Of the Soviet

By Maurice C. Carroll and Robert Parrella
Of The Herald Tribune Staff

From a shabby, debris-heaped pier in Queens, a deadly bazooka shell was fired yesterday toward the naked, unprotected East River side of the United Nations buildings.

It was a little after noon and, outside the UN, a band of Cuban exile pickets was walking. Inside two leading world figures—Cuba's Ernesto "Che" Guevara and Belgium's Paul-Henri Spaak—were talking to the General Assembly and Security Council, respectively. Throughout the grounds and buildings, harried detectives were pursuing a bomb threat.

Then there was a muffled boom and a geyser of water sprayed up in the East River. There was a moment of uncertainty in the Security Council. Mr. Spaak paused—then went on with his impassioned defense of his nation's Congo policy. The pickets and their target, Mr. Guevara, Castro's Minister of Industry, never broke stride.

The shell had plopped harmlessly into the chill, gray water, two-thirds of the way across the river, less than 300 yards short of Manhattan—and *hiele* farther from the glass-and-metal complex and its more than 2,000 unsuspecting occupants.

MOMENTS OF MYSTERY

No one was quite sure what this apparent attack from an unexpected quarter amounted to until, almost two hours later, a four-foot bazooka-type weapon was found on a Queens pier, aimed at the gleaming UN buildings across the river, a paper Cuban flag pasted to the top of it.

But the explosion drew crowds of police reinforcements and touched off a massive police search among the city's many Cuban exile groups for the perpetrator.

And it seemed to inflame the pickets. What had been a tiny band of no more than 50 swelled for a time to hundreds. A woman identified as Gladys Perez dashed onto the UN grounds almost at the same time as the explosion and two policemen were slightly injured subduing her.

Later in the day, three Cuban exiles slipped through police lines and, before they were hauled away, cut down the red flag of the Soviet Union, waving with other member-nation flags in a colorful row at the front of the grounds on First Ave.

On the Queens side of the river, a Long Island Rail Road employee, Charles Presley, had seen a puff of smoke from a near-by pier while he sat outside eating his lunch. But he thought nothing of it until he heard on the radio later that there had been some sort of explosion in the river near the UN.

Mr. Presley dashed into the office of the Adam Metal Supply Co., 4-63 48th St., at the head of the pier where he had seen that puff of smoke.

SEARCH FOR THE WEAPON

Breathlessly, he told Frank O'Shea, a foreman there, what he had seen. Mr. O'Shea and a truck driver, Claude Pollett, who had just made a delivery, ran to the end of the 400-foot bulkhead. They found nothing.

Thinking this had been some sort of joke, they walked slowly back toward the office building—and then they saw the weapon.

It was a four-foot bazooka, a hollow tube that fires a 3.5-inch rocket, 18 inches long, containing a high-explosive charge.

It was lashed with plastic wire to a wooden milk box, in which two holes had been cut for the black launcher tube. The box, weighted down with rocks, was on a slight rise of ground near a brick wall at the pier's end, surrounded by piles of battered crates, a litter of metal scraps and debris.

Pasted to the barrel was the red, white and blue Cuban flag.

Attached to the launcher tube was a metal timing
More on SHOT—P 4

Saturday, December 12, 1964

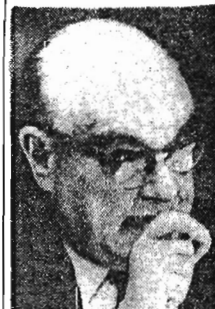
IN THE NEWS THIS MORNING

[FROM THE HERALD TRIBUNE'S WORLD-WIDE SOURCES.]

TOPIC A—

ⓈBlast at UN. A 3.5-inch bazooka rocket was fired from Queens, exploded in the East River about 300 yards short of the United Nations headquarters dominated by the glass-sided Secretariat skyscraper. The blast set off an angry demonstration by Cuban pickets protesting the appearance of Communist Cuba's No. 2 man, Ernesto "Che" Guevara. (He was denouncing the U. S. in the General Assembly, later shrugged off the blast.) Police seized a woman brandishing a knife, later three Cubans cut down the Soviet Union's flag. The irony: The UN and police had taken extraordinary precautions to guard against incidents. (Pages 1, 4 and 5)

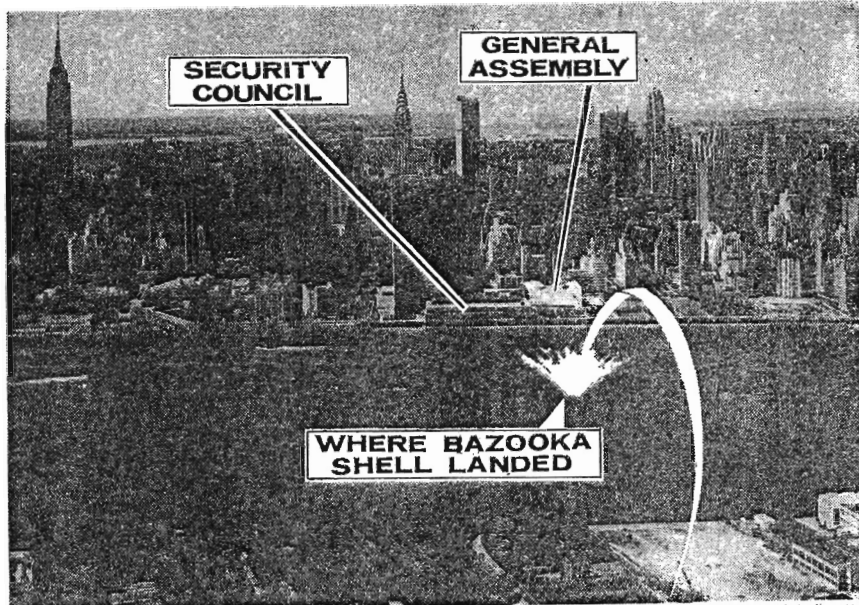
12:07—Speaking at UN



Herald Tribune—ROSENBERG
Belgium's Spaak



Herald Tribune—KELL
Cuba's Guevara



Herald Tribune photo-diagram
THE SCENE of the bazooka firing at the UN with Long Island City, Queens, in the foreground. Line shows the trajectory of the projectile, which fell into the river, short of its apparent target—the General Assembly Building.

Shot That Shook the UN

(Continued from page one)

device, a square piece of black metal that looked like an electric meter. Police of the Bomb Squad said later, though, that the weapon could not have been fired automatically, that whoever fired it must have done so manually.

The weapon was to be taken to Fort Tilden for examination by Army Ordnance experts. Its maximum range is no more than a few yards greater than the river's 900-yard width at that point. It can fire fuse-type shells, set to explode after a certain time. High-explosive bazooka rockets have a lethal bursting range of about 25 yards.

Police were called and they soon swarmed through the area. On foot, they searched the shabby piers. Two launches cruised up and down the river, policemen aboard them scanning the shore. Two police helicopters clattered just a few feet above the piers.

But no sign of any other weapons, or anyone who might have fired them, turned up.

Across the river, reinforced police detachments guarded the UN, extending into the night a protective blockade that had commenced before dawn.

Throughout the city, law enforcement officials were unting for the person or persons who might have set up the bazooka.

A Cuban exile source in Miami said that members of anti-Castro group known as the "Black Front" were responsible for the bazooka attack. Such a group was not known here, but there are thousands of exiles in the New York area, in many different political groups, which keep changing in makeup and titles.

Police and UN guards began searching the International organization's six-block East Side complex before dawn, after a 6:45 a. m. FBI tip that that there might be some kind of "bomb activity."

The search grew grimmer when, at 10:37, a man with a Spanish accent telephoned the Police Communications Center at police headquarters, 240 Center St., and said, "I have put a bomb in front of the UN Building. Keep people away between 11:30 a. m. and 12:30 p. m. Long live Cuba!"

But behind the green-tinted windows of the glass-walled UN buildings, the busy session went on as scheduled.

SHARP REPORT OF EXPLOSION

Toward noon, Mr. Spaak, Belgian Foreign Minister, was speaking extemporaneously to the Security Council about the Congo situation. Mr. Guevara was before the Assembly, delivering a 45-minute harangue in which he charged that the United States and several Latin lands were preparing an attack on Cuba.

Spectator galleries were crowded. A double guard, alerted to the bomb threats, checked all admission passes carefully.

In the Security Council chamber, which, seems to have been in direct line with the path of the shell, Mr. Spaak was speaking when, from behind the multicolor Per Krogh mural and the rich blue curtains at the rear of the chamber, facing the East River, there was a muffled, but sharp sort of explosion.

Mr. Spaak paused just a moment, then went on with his speech. U. S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson, who had been glancing down at some papers, looked up sharply. A murmur of puzzlement ran through the chamber and delegation aids were sent out to the press galleries to see what had happened.

A man sitting in the British Broadcasting Corp office had looked up at the moment of the explosion and, some 300 yards off the Manhattan shore, had seen a 15-foot geyser of water shoot into the air.

There were about 300 people in the Security Council chamber at the time, perhaps 2,000 in the entire UN complex. Outside, police helicopters clattered above. Police launch No. 2 was patrolling in the river. The Jersey Central Railroad tugboat Sandy Hook was chugging by.

Bomb experts said the eight-pound shell probably would have caused little damage to the UN building but could have proven deadly if it had penetrated a window and exploded inside.

300 YARDS SHORT OF SHORE

Police on the launch and the tug's captain, Anthony Caganski, of 22 E. 44th St., Bayonne, N. J., saw the geyser. They pinpointed the location at about 300 yards short of the Manhattan shore, 100 yards northwest of rocky little Belmont Island, which protrudes a few feet above the water in the midriver and is crowned by a small navigational marker.

The blast was powerful enough to shake the glass-walled UN Secretariat Building on the lower portions of its 39 floors.

But it caused no particular alarm and it wasn't noticed at all in the Assembly chamber, where Mr. Guevara, tieless, clad in Army fatigues and mirror-shined combat boots, delivered his diatribe against the United States.

His voice was soft but his words were harsh.

The "Yankee imperialists," he said, were guilty of intervention in Laos, Viet Nam, the Congo and the Caribbean.

The U. S., he said, has turned Puerto Rico into a "hybrid culture" and used its men as "cannon fodder in imperialist wars, as in Korea."

From the American base in Guantanamo, he said, 1964 alone produced 1,323 provocative acts, including "the commission of acts of sexual exhibitionism by North Americans of both sexes."

Cuba, he said, "reaffirms the right to maintain weapons it wishes and refuses to recognize the right of any power on earth—however powerful—to violate our soil, our territorial waters or our air spaces."

Eastern European and African delegates applauded Mr. Guevara. Latin American delegates sat silently.

Later, Mr. Stevenson, in a right of reply, rejected the Guevara speech as "distortion and misrepresentation." Anti-Castro pickets were out early in anticipation of Mr. Guevara's speech.

Until the twin eruptions—the explosion offshore and the brief fuss stirred by Miss Perez on the First Ave. side of the UN complex—the Cuban exile demonstration had been a staid sort of thing.

Police were searching grounds and buildings in response

to the bomb threat, but across the street there were more police and newspapermen than pickets.

About 30 smiling exiles, carrying placards and American and Cuban flags, straggled from 42d to 43d Sts. and back again, occasionally chanting, "Guevara va Rusia (Guevara go to Russia)."

Luis Reyes handed out little yellow leaflets announcing the presence of the Cuban Work Committee in Exile, and a pretty brunette girl, who declined to give her name because her parents are still in Cuba, passed out blue handbills from the Cuban Student Directorate.

Deputy Chief Inspector Arthur L. Morgan ordered the pickets to rip the wooden handles from their hand-lettered cardboard signs—which bore such messages as "Better Dead Than Red" and "Invasion Now or Never" and "Che Guevara—Carnicero (butcher) de los Cubanos"—but they complied smilingly and the mood was more holidayish than tense.

LEAPS OVER THE HEDGE

The marchers stopped at a television reporter's request while his cameraman, a large man in a fur-collared corduroy jacket, got set up and then, on signal, they marched and chanted.

"Poco gente (not enough people)," hissed Mr. Reyes to two exiles chatting with a reporter, and they jumped into the line of march.

"Looks over-policed," said one of the 50 policemen standing around.

"Looks over-reported," replied a reporter.

And then, a little after noon, Miss Perez, a heavy-set woman with long black hair, dressed in a black leather jacket and black slacks, leaped suddenly from the sidewalk over the two-and-a-half-foot hedge and fence that borders the UN grounds.

James Ginty, assistant to the president of the Hammarkjold Foundation, was walking nearby and saw her. "Look out. She's got a knife," he yelled.

Patrolman Michael Marino ran towards her as she dashed across the grass toward the row of national flags that decorate the UN grounds. She waved a hunting knife with a five-inch blade at the patrolman. He dodged the knife and, with the help of Patrolman Robert Connolly, helped pin her against a low wall. Both patrolmen were slightly injured in the fracas.

Miss Perez was dragged, struggling and screaming, to a squad car, while police on the other side of First Ave. prevented the clamoring pickets from crossing the street to see what was going on.

In a paper bag, Miss Perez was carrying a bottle of Clorox and 500 carpet tacks, but she wouldn't say why.

Taken to the E. 51st St. station, she simply screamed hysterically in Spanish for half an hour or so. When she finally calmed down she said, through an interpreter, that she intended to kill Mr. Guevara, but she didn't say how.

Police said she lived at 25 Union Sq., Jersey City, and that she came to the United States two years ago. She was not a member of any organization, as far as they could find out.

She was charged with felonious assault on a policeman, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and Sullivan Law violations.

And by that time, what had been a peaceful sort of East Side picketing party had turned into a scene of fear and tension.

At about 2 p. m., with reinforced police guards massed in front of the building, there was a loud "bang" at 45th St. and First Ave. A northbound truck, loaded with steel pipe, was halted there for a red light.

"Bang," sounded again.

Police raced toward the truck, then found the sounds had been backfires. Everybody was relieved but the driver, Angelo Caruso, 23, of 973 Dumont Ave., Brooklyn, who got a summons for "unnecessary noise, defective muffler."

CUT DOWN SOVIET FLAG

At about 4:30, 11 of the Cuban demonstrators, singing the Cuban national anthem and carrying a hand-drawn sign that read "WE ARE READY TO FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISM," started to march up the street away from the main entrance of the UN. As police moved to head them off, three other demonstrators sprinted through the thinned-out police line, climbed a 6-foot fence, and, within seconds, cut the Soviet flag down from its staff.

Police quickly surrounded the three and, as one policeman raised the Soviet flag, another two dozen forcibly carried the three demonstrators into two police cars. They were taken to the 17th Precinct, booked and charged with disorderly conduct.

Soviet chief delegate Nikolai T. Federenko reacted angrily to the flag incident.

"We are among pirates," he said. "There is no protection. How can we work? It has never been permitted to treat a national flag in such a way. I ask, what is going on? Where do we stand? What are we doing?"

Inside the UN buildings, the object of all the aggression took it with jaunty nonchalance.

Che Guevara strolled through the delegates' lounge in his green fatigue uniform, puffing on a cigar, and someone told him that the noise before had been a shell exploding. Mr. Guevara waved his cigar airily.

"The explosion gives the whole thing more taste," he said.

What, someone asked, did he think was the motive? "Why don't you ask the man who planted the bomb?" The questioner pressed. What was behind it all?

"I don't care," said Mr. Guevara and he strolled away.

Easy to Buy Bazooka —But Not the Ammo

By Barrett McGurn

Of The Herald Tribune Staff

Want a bazooka? Or a mortar, or an infantry rifle, or a bayonet? It's no trick at all to get as many as you want. They are for sale with little or no red tape in many shops in the New York metropolitan area and across the country.

Ammunition for the bazookas (technically, shoulder-fired rocket launchers) and mortars is another story. You may have to swipe that from the armed forces or, if you have a good connection, get some from the Central Intelligence Agency, if you can convince the CIA that you have a worthwhile military project such as the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. Making the bazooka or mortar shells yourself is quite difficult.

That's the picture as it is spelled out by Valmore Forgett jr., proprietor of a weapons shop at Ridgefield, N. J., the Service Armament Co.

David Lange, vice-president of Eastern Firearms in New Brunswick, N. J., a seller of bazookas and mortars, agrees.

Mr. Forgett hit the headlines a year ago when two boys dressed as Nazis shot up a barn in Passaic County, N. J., with a .20-mm anti-tank gun bought from the Service Armament Co. Mr. Forgett says that he is now down to war rifles and bayonets. He has dropped a lot of other lines.

But Mr. Lange still sells bazookas and mortars. Of the latter he can count on sales of "several hundred at a time" on a once-a-year basis. These bulk shipments are to Denmark and a dozen other small countries to which the State Department authorizes sales. They are all foreign buyers.

Inside the country, Mr. Lange estimates, he may make "three or four sales" a year.

What does any one want with a mortar or a bazooka? American Legion posts, "collectors," occasionally firms planning certain industrial uses, sometimes movie companies—these are among the buyers. It's all legal.

The catch is getting the ammunition.

Mr. Lange cringes at the thought of another round of bad publicity. When President Kennedy was assassinated a year ago with a \$19.95 mail-order Italian carbine of



Herald Tribune—UPI

A CLOSE LOOK—This is the weapon used yesterday to fire a projectile from Queens at the UN Building, across the East River. It is a four-foot bazooka, mounted to a wood-and-metal milk crate and held in place with plastic wire. The crate was weighted with rocks. The weapon fires a 3.5 rocket, 18 inches long and containing a highly explosive charge. The square piece of metal just below the center of the tube is the timing device.

a sort you can get in sport stores, there was a deluge of sour notices and Mr. Forgett, for one, retrenched. But lethal weapons are still available for the asking, and for a small price.

According to Mr. Forgett, a mortar and a bazooka are very simple weapons, easily made in your own cellar. Each is a mere tube. The mortar is a pipe with a backing plate and a firing pin onto which the shell is dropped. The bazooka does not even have a backing plate; two electrical leads are all the device requires to expel the charge.

Mr. Lange sells mortars for \$50, bazookas for \$20.

But Mr. Lange insists that the eyebrow-raising that is bound to follow this latest episode of violence done by military equipment is unjust. There are "always a few nuts," he says—all sorts of things can be put to deadly uses. "There are millions upon millions of guns in circulation inside the United States. Only a tiny percentage are misused."

The Pentagon said last night that the bazooka now in use by the United States Army has a range of 960 yards when fired at a 35-degree

angle. It lobs a 3.5-inch shell from a tube a shade over five feet long. The bazooka was developed during World War II. At that time the shell was lighter. It was 2.6 inches in width.

The distance across the East River at the spot where the firing occurred is 900 yards. Local Army representatives said last night that the bazooka should be fired from a flat trajectory to obtain maximum accuracy. The weapon used yesterday was found with its tube barrel locked into an elevated firing position.

A police Bomb Squad officer said last night that there was no thought of testing the weapon—"We wouldn't dare do it," he said. He described the launcher as having been "adapted," since it appeared that some portions of the weapon were not original with the piece. The rocket launcher was painted black, with olive drab showing through.

The police officer said the department will consult with the Army in an effort to trace the weapon.

UN 'Bazooka' Day

TIMES

- 10 a.m.—Cuban exile pickets, protesting UN appearance of is likely at the UN.
- 10 a.m.—Cuban exile pickets, protesting UN appearance of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, start marching on 1st Ave.
- 10:37 a.m.—Man with Spanish accent calls police, says he has planted bomb at UN.
- 10:45 a.m.—Mr. Guevara arrives in General Assembly.
—Security Council convenes; Paul Henri Spaak, Belgian foreign minister, commences speech about Congo.
- 10:55 a.m.—Assembly convenes.
- 11:30 a.m.—Mr. Guevara commences Assembly speech denouncing U. S.
- 12:07 p.m.—Bazooka shell blows up in East River.
—Cuban exile woman runs onto UN grounds, subdued by police.
- 12:15 p.m.—Mr. Spaak concludes his speech.
- 12:20 p.m.—Mr. Guevara concludes his speech.
- 1:30 p.m.—Bazooka launcher discovered on East River pier in Queens.
- 4:30 p.m.—Three Cuban exiles cut down Soviet flag in UN plaza, arrested by police.

Not the First Time UN Was Under Fire

By Barrett McGurn

Of The Herald Tribune Staff

The bazooka shell that was lobbed across the East River yesterday in the direction of the United Nations Building was not the first military assault to which the international organization has been subjected. Another one was in 1948, when the UN was at Lake Success on Long Island.

The first attack occurred at 3:30 p. m. on July 23, 1948. A single-engine two-seater yellow and orange Aeronca light plane swooped low over the UN site and a sharp detonation 150 feet above a parking lot rattled windows. A day later a graying 36-year-old former gunner of a B-17 bomber walked into a New Haven newspaper office and confessed that he had been the attacker.

The ex-gunner was Stephen J. Supina, the co-manager of his family's roadside diner at Stafford, a small town eight miles from Willimantic, Conn. Mr. Supina turned out to be a rather high-strung and ideal-

istic young man who felt that the UN did more talking than real peacemaking. His idea in bombing the air over the heads of the diplomats was, he said to wake them up to the realities of a dangerous world.

Mr. Supina's lawyers pointed out in his defense that he didn't hurt anyone. His "bomb" was a stick of dynamite at the end of 150 feet of firing wire. Mr. Supina hung the explosive out the window of his little rented plane and detonated the one-pound charge with two flashlight batteries. It was the flyer's first bombing mission of his own. In service he had flown 33 missions over Europe as a turret gunner, but not as a pilot. He was taking flying lessons when he thought of using his practice plane for the reminder to the UN.

Mr. Supina's case dragged on for months. Finally after 148 days in jail he was freed by Judge Henry J. A. Collins in Mineola court who decided that the much-decorated Mr. Supina had been punished enough.

Arrest 4 Anti-Castroites, Seize Weapons in N. J.

By The Associated Press

UNION CITY, N. J.

Police arrested four men they described as anti-Castro revolutionists at an apartment yesterday and confiscated weapons.

Two machine pistols of World War II vintage, a defused hand grenade and several hundred rounds of ammunition were found under a bed in the apartment at 149 49th St., police said.

They arrested Omar Junco, 30; Rafael Cruz, 19, Raul Gomez, 22, and Rene Jimenez, also 22. Police said Mr.

Junco told them the four are members of the "8th Assault Force Commandos," a new army of Cuban liberation. Mr. Junco identified himself as a captain-inspector of the group, according to police.

The four were booked on charges of possessing weapons and ammunition. Later they were brought before Magistrate Frank G. Hahn, who ordered them held in \$10,000 ball each for a preliminary hearing Monday.

The four denied any connection with an anti-Castro demonstration outside the United Nations headquarters in New York City, police said.