

Bazooka Bomb Rocks Cuban Embassy

Blast Reply to 'Insulting Canadian Gov't Attitude' — Miami Cuban Leader

MIAMI, Florida (AP) — Felipe Rivero, head of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, said today his anti-Castro group set off the explosion at the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa.

"Secret cells of the movement which I direct told me this morning of the success of the action which they carried out, Rivero said in an announcement.

"Canada," he said, "has been chosen for the initiation of the war against communism, because of the insulting and provocative attitude maintained by the Canadian government with respect to the tragedy of the Cuban people enslaved by international communism."

The 43-year-old Rivero is a veteran of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.

Shrapnel Sprays Area

The Castro-government embassy at 330 Chapel Street was rocked today by a lethal, home-rigged rocket bomb planted by Cuban nationalists.

It exploded, probably prematurely, directly in front of and only feet away from the building, spewing the neighborhood with shrapnel and broken glass.

There were no injuries from the eight o'clock blast. It came minutes before the street normally teems with school-bound children.

The steel casing of the two foreign-made bazooka bombs was picked up on the street by police who said it was etched with "Asociacion Nacionalista Cubana."

Police and firemen were barred from the building between Laurier and Osgoode Streets, until after a mid-morning East Block meeting between Ambassador Americo Cruz and Marcel Cadieux, the deputy minister of external affairs.

Detective Sergeant Carl Norton said damage to the inside of the building was limited to broken glass.

The outside of the front door was splintered, the lawn was torn up and chunks were chipped from the red brick walls. Neighborhood windows were broken.

SAW FLASH

Commissionaire Edmond Charlebois, 68, who was standing in the door of a house across the street said he saw a

Device Like Bazooka

Home-Made Mechanism Fired Three Shells

The blast that shook the Cuban Embassy and shattered its windows appeared to have been caused by shots fired from a bazooka-type gun mechanism.

An examination of the remains of what one police officer described as "an anti-tank" device provided evidence that the mechanism was of home-made construction.

There were two chambers, each containing a shell. The whole device was apparently housed in a plaid flight bag which was mounted on a car rack atop a 1966 Dodge.

One of the shells fired. It slammed into the wall of the two-storey brick structure, spitting brick and mortar over the verandah and front lawn of the embassy. It also gouged the front walk and lawn, blackening a five-by-five-foot area.

Turn to Page 4—DEVICE

'Too Bad'

"Too bad. We intended to blow them to kingdom come."

This was the reaction of Cuban revolutionary leader Felipe Rivero to today's bombing at the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa.

He was talking to The Journal by phone from Miami.

"It was our man," he said of the person who planted the rocket-loaded suitcase in front of the embassy but had a crisp "No Comment" to the question of how many were involved.

"There'll be more," he forecast.

flash of light in the middle of the road and heard a thunderous explosion.

"I thought our building was cracking up," he said.

Another neighbor, Mrs. Annette Fauvelle of 333 Chapel Street, said she thought it was a furnace explosion.

SAW BAG ON CAR

Jean Poirier, a 12-year-old newspaper boy who lives at 535 Besserer Street, said he saw a car with a suitcase on top parked in front of the building when he delivered a morning paper there at 7.30.

Sgt. Norton said only the caretaker, his wife, a child and a maid were inside the embassy at the time.

The car, according to members of the religious "Congregation les Freres du Sacre Coeur" who live next door, is used by the caretaker.

The black and red plastic suitcase was blown apart as one of the bazooka shells blasted off toward the front of the building.

The other flew back onto the road.

It did not go off because of a bent firing pin. It was taken by demolition experts to the Army's Orleans proving range where it was exploded. Experts said the rockets were not a type that would be found in the Canadian Armed Forces inventory.

Turn to Page 12—SHRAPNEL



Explosives Experts Examine Bomb in Rain-Soaked Street

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wire)

From Page One

Device

The **trick** shell in its casing misfired and fell into the middle of Chapel Street. It has been taken by an army bomb demolition crew to the testing grounds at Orleans where it will be dismantled.

Scratched on one side of one of the black chambers was a crude lettering "Asociacion Nationalista Cubana." The numeral three was marked below this inscription.

Other components of the bazooka had English inscriptions painted in green lettering. The words "front, left, and right" formed part of the inner structure of the suitcase.

What appeared to be an alarm clock indicating a timing device lay in the middle of the suitcase debris. Shoved amongst a maze of wiring was a conventional yellow-handled screw driver.

Two hours after the blast shook the Chapel-Laurier Street area the windows of the home had been covered by brown paper.

From within came high pitched arguments.



CROWDS EXAMINE CAR RACK, EXPLODED SUITCASE

(Journal Photo by Dominion Wire)

CUBANS WITHIN RIGHTS

Police Barred From Embassy

By The Canadian Press
Under a 1708 statute of Queen Anne, the Cubans today were perfectly within their rights in denying police admittance to their embassy here after a bombing outside the building.

The same type of incident occurred here New Year's Day, 1956, when the Russian Embassy burned down.

The fire had started in the code room and Soviet officials kept Ottawa firemen from the building for 30 minutes.

THEIR TERRITORY
Diplomatic immunity in

such a case means that an embassy property is the territory of the country occupying it. The Cuban Embassy is on Cuban soil, the Russian on Russian soil.

Most embassy incidents here have concerned the Soviet Embassy.

Not long after the Second World War, somebody tried to set the embassy afire by pouring gasoline into the garage and tossing a torch into it.

On Nov. 7, 1961, during the annual reception celebrating the Russian revolution, anti-communist pickets jostled a Soviet embassy official when he asked them to leave the embassy grounds.

The only fatal violence occurred at the Indian high commissioner's office here April 19, 1961, when the first secretary was shot to death at his desk.

An unemployed Yugoslav immigrant who had been seeking work in India was charged with murder but was later declared insane.

Ottawa Man Owns Embassy

The owner of the Cuban Embassy at 330 Chapel Street is Marcel Lavigne, 99 Henderson Avenue.

He arrived at the blast-shattered house at noon today and spoke briefly with Cuban Ambassador, Dr. Americo Cruz.

Neither was certain which insurance company would be liable for the damage and Mr. Lavigne shrugged his shoulders, smiling wryly and said that he doubted that he carried "radical insurance."

Mr. Lavigne said he purchased the house three and a half years ago from a Mrs. Jean Grant.

The Cuban delegation still has two years of a lease on the building, Mr. Lavigne said.

AT HOME DURING BLAST

Ambassador Keeps Calm

Cuban Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Americo Cruz, stood in the shambles of his embassy living room and told reporters this morning he had no idea who had blasted his embassy or why they had done it.

Dr. Cruz said he had heard that a counterrevolutionary group in Miami had conceived the plot.

He said further that he had knowledge of 14 Cuban students living in Ottawa who were opposed to the Castro regime, but he had no evidence to support any suggestion that they were involved in the blast which battered the two-storey brick house at 330 Chapel Street at 7.50 a.m. today.

The ambassador, dressed in a brown tweed sports coat and slacks, chewed on a cigar as he said that he and his family were at their home in Rockcliffe when the blast occurred.

He said there were three people in the embassy at the time of the blast, two adults and a child. He refused to identify any of them, although one, he said, was a secretary.

He said he did not think that the plot was designed as an attempt on his or anyone else's life and he spoke with remarkable calm and command, standing amidst shattered glass in the simply-appointed but comfortable living room.

Why the attack had been made on the Cuban embassy in Canada, he couldn't say. He suggested to a reporter that he ask the terrorists who did it.

The Cuban delegation to Canada has used the house on Chapel Street for the past two years.

Dr. Cruz has been Cuban ambassador to Canada since 1960. He is now acting dean

of the diplomatic corps.

He said there were so many counter-revolutionary organizations that he had heard of that he couldn't begin to imagine who was responsible. He had never heard of "Asociacion Nacionalista Cubana."

This crude inscription was scratched on the side of one of the black shells which presumably housed the explosive.

As reporters left the embassy, Ottawa police under Det. Sgt. Carl Norton, arrived and were welcomed warmly by the smiling ambassador. Until then police had been barred by embassy officials from entering the premises.

From Page One

Shrapnel

Police have not established when the lethal contents of the suitcase were strapped onto the rack on the trunk of the caretaker's car which was parked overnight directly in front of the embassy.

Police and firemen from nearby stations converged on the scene.

They found the shattered suitcase with the still-unexploded rocket laying on the road.

CORDON AREA
They were turned away from the embassy door which is legally outside Canadian jurisdiction and began cordoning off the block as army demolition experts arrived.

Young Poirier, the paperboy, said he noticed it particularly, when he passed at 7.30 a.m. "I thought that was a silly place to leave a suitcase at that time of day," he said.

Mrs. Fauve, who runs a boarding house for elderly people across the street, said she didn't notice anything particular about the car when she looked out about 10 to eight.

NOTICES CAR
Her attention, she said, was drawn to a black car cruising slowly in front of the building. "It was going so slow — all the other cars go fast," she said.

She was putting on her shoes, a few minutes later, when the rocket went off. She was thrown against a door jamb by its force.

Norton Park, an information officer with the United Appeal, was coming down stairs in the appeal office directly across the street.

"I ran out and I couldn't see anything for a cloud of smoke," she said.

Ironically, Miss Park spent the entire Second World War on the Isle of Man, trained in air raid precautions and "I never saw a bomb."

"The only thing I remembered from our training was not to touch a bomb if I saw one." Commissionaire Charlebois, 68, had been standing at the door of Kildare House, a building being renovated by the Government to accommodate the Company of Young Canadians when he saw the flash.

'SHATTERING BOOM'

"It was a real shattering boom. My heart was fluttering for half an hour afterwards," he said.

There was nobody in the immediate area but he said the street was flooded by curious spectators in a matter of minutes.

"I had a helluva time keeping them back," he said.

REFUSES TO TALK

First embassy official at the scene was Roberto Marquez, the first secretary, who arrived within minutes of the explosion. He refused to talk to either reporters or police and hustled into the building.

He was followed by Dr. Cruz and his wife who also hurried into the building. He later spoke to an officer from the External Affairs Department and left to see Mr. Cadieux.

Det. Sgt. Norton, heading the investigation, had a 10 minute interview with Dr. Cruz but said the questioning wasn't much help.

"He's very polite, but not too helpful," Sergeant Norton said.

CHECK AIRPORT

Police are checking Ottawa airport to investigate recent arrivals. They are specially interested, in knowing of any recent arrivals from Miami or the Southern United States.

Captains Thomas Martin and Larry Cooke spent 15 minutes working on the shell.

"Good luck, Tom," murmured Capt. Cooke as his partner picked up the missile and set it into a big box surrounded by sandbags on the back of an army trailer.

It was taken under police escort to the Orleans proving grounds where it was set off.

ALARM CLOCK FOUND

An alarm clock and batteries were found on the street and were taken to police headquarters.

The explosion — there was speculation that more than one rocket went off — broke all the front windows in the building.

It tore chunks from the wall around the front door, gouged the lawn and nicked a pair of large trees flanking the walk.

It did not disrupt hydro or telephone service but a call to the embassy was answered by a man who said "I'm sorry I don't speak English" in good English and hung up.