

# ***Bomb Damages Russian Mission On East 67th St.***

## ***At Least 6 Are Injured — Blast Tied to Omega 7***

**By ROBERT McG. THOMAS Jr.**

A powerful bomb, apparently set by the anti-Castro Omega 7 terrorist group, exploded at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations on East 67th Street last night, injuring four police officers and at least two mission employees and shattering hundreds of windows throughout much of the block between Lexington and Third Avenues.

The shock of the blast, which occurred shortly before 10 P.M. and was heard 20 blocks away, smashed a gaping hole in the driveway to the mission's underground garage, sent bricks flying, blew out windows as much 17 stories above the street and knocked residents of neighboring buildings to the floor.

"It blew the pages right out of the book I was reading," said Mrs. Joel I. Friedman, who said she was in her eighth-floor apartment across the street from the 12-story mission at 136 East 67th Street when the blast blew out her windows and hurled her aside.

### **Synagogue Windows Damaged**

It also reportedly damaged ten 90-year-old stained-glass windows at the Park East synagogue across the street, and demolished book shelves in a ground-floor guest room at the mission itself, according to Alexander Titarenko, who said he was an assistant secretary general of the Soviet United Nations delegation.

"Books were knocked from shelves. Furniture was knocked around. If anyone had been in the room he would have been killed," said Mr. Titarenko, who described the blast as a "great explosion," that produced "some kind of blue and yellow smoke."

He said that a reception for several hundred people had ended just a shortly before the blast. "If they had still been there, there might have been many more injuries," he said.

Despite the great force of the explosion, which sent a shower of flying glass cascading to the street, none of the injured were critically hurt.

Three of the injured officers, identified as William Martin, Vincent Keavney and Robert Moriarty, were taken to hospitals for treatment of lacerations, according to the police, who said they had been walking out of the 19th Precinct station house across the street from the mission when they were cut down by flying glass. The fourth officer, Ralph de Matteis, who had been on guard duty at the mission, was hospitalized for hyperventilation and tension, the police said. Three of the officers were released after treatment, but Officer Moriarty, who suffered an eye injury, was admitted.

There were initial reports that four mission employees had been injured, but Soviet officials refused to let medical personnel into the building to examine them. The chief Soviet delegate to the United Nations, Oleg A. Troyanovksy, later told Mayor Koch that only two women had been injured, neither of them seriously. They were not identified, but Mr. Titarenko said later that they were both typists who had been working in an office on the sixth floor when they were knocked down and cut by glass when the office windows blew in.

The police said the bomb exploded about 15 feet from the entrance to the ga-

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# At Least 6 Injured in Bomb Explosion at Russian Mission

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rage, dislodging brick work, blasting a hole the size of a manhole in the pavement and exposing the floor below.

It shattered windows several stories high in the mission and in at least half a dozen buildings on both sides of the street, including the police station and a fire house.

"I saw police officers lying in the street and I heard a couple of guys screaming," said Lieut. Owen Burns of Ladder Company 16, whose quarters are just across the street from the mission and are next door to the 19th Precinct station house.

By early this morning, several hours after the blast, the police said they still did not know how the bomb had gotten into the garage. The garage has no outer door, but down the ramp there is a protective gate. A police spokesman said the bomb went off beyond the gate.

An attendant on duty at a public garage next door to the mission said that the bomb had been thrown or rolled into the garage. But nobody else, including the officer on guard duty, confirmed that report.

The main focus of the investigation appeared to be a small surveillance camera attached to the front of the mission. "We don't know what was seen on the camera, but it's under active investigation," said Chief of Detectives James T. Sullivan, one of a number of high-ranking officers who came to the scene.

## Anonymous Call Received

About 40 minutes after the blast, United Press International reported it had received an anonymous call saying that the bomb had been set by Omega 7 as "repudiation of Soviet colonialism." A similar call was received about the same time by The Associated Press.

It was the second time in less than five days that callers have claimed responsibility for Omega 7 for a bombing at a diplomatic mission in New York City. Last Friday, shortly after a bomb exploded at



Donald F. McHenry, second from right, chief U.S. delegate to the U.N., arriving at Soviet mission after bomb blast

the Cuban Mission to the United Nations at 38th Street and Lexington Avenue, a caller to The Associated Press claimed that the anti-Castro organization had planted the bomb.

A police spokesman said that the department had told its personnel two weeks ago to be on the alert for a bombing at the Soviet mission because of bombings at the Soviet Embassy in Paris and the Soviet Trade mission there.

As ambulances and other emergency vehicles converged on the East Side block, Soviet officials refused to allow the police bomb squad to enter the building to search for other bombs.

They later relented, the police said, but allowed only a cursory search by detec-

tives, who inspected the garage with a police dog trained to sniff out explosives. No further bombs were found.

As a result of the inspection, however, the police said the blast may have caused structural damage to the 300-by-100 foot building, and they recommended the evacuation of several upstairs rooms as a precaution in the event of a floor collapse.

The police quickly sealed off the block, where residents hung out windows, many of them without glass.

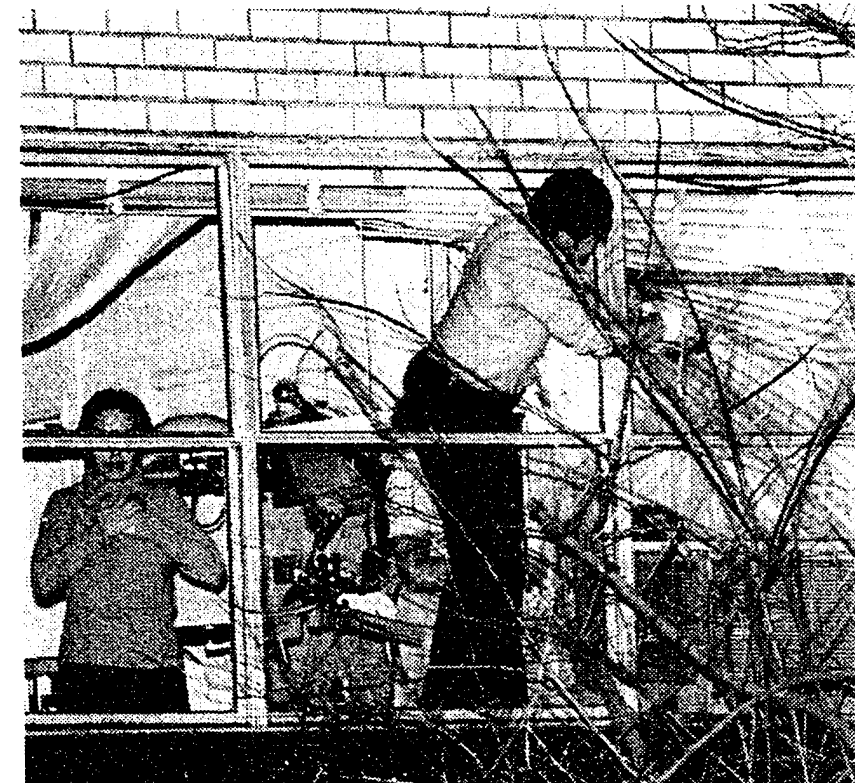
"We were having tea when the explosion knocked the tea down and us down," said Rami Ezra, who was entertaining a friend in his 18th floor apartment at the time of the blast.

One of the first visitors to the mission following the explosion was Donald F. McHenry, the chief United States delegate to the United Nations, who was allowed inside.

Within an hour of the explosion, both Mayor Koch and Police Commissioner Robert J. McGuire, who had been dining together, went to the scene.

In a meeting with Ambassador Troyanovsky in the foyer of the mission, Mr. Koch expressed regret for the incident and said the police would do whatever they could to protect the mission.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has linked the Omega 7 group to almost a score of bombings over the past four years at diplomatic consulates of Cuba



The New York Times / Marilyn K. Yee

Personnel in the mission gathered at windows and cleared away debris

and Venezuela, as well as restaurants and other facilities in New York and New Jersey that sponsor pro-Castro events.

The name of the group is a pseudonym used by members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, an anti-Castro group based in the New York-New Jersey area.

Three members of the group were convicted recently of the bombing death of a former Chilean Foreign Minister, Orlando Letelier, in Washington, in September, 1976. Its membership is thought to be no more than several hundred.

Members of the group also claimed responsibility for the Oct. 27 bombing of the Cuban Mission and for the March 26, 1979, bombing at Kennedy International Airport in which four ramp employees were injured when a bomb contained in a suitcase being loaded aboard a Trans World Airlines jet exploded.

Omega 7 has also claimed responsibility for the murder last month of a Cuban refugee leader, Eulalio José Negrin, near his home in Union City, N.J.

Because of its clandestine nature, police have been unable, thus far, to break up the group.

"It's very difficult to break into this kind of cell, where people know each other for many, many years," said Police Commissioner McGuire, "but we're going to do our best."

The Police Department's intelligence unit, as well as the F.B.I., have been investigating the organization.

The anonymous caller to the news wire services said that the bombing at the Soviet Mission was done to repudiate Soviet colonialism in Cuba and to denounce the presence of Russian nuclear submarines off Cuba.