

Soviet Union blames U.S. for UN bombing

From Sun-Times Wires

MOSCOW—The Soviet Union Wednesday compared the bombing of its United Nations mission in New York to the take-over of the American Embassy in Iran, and said the explosion took place "with the connivance" of U.S. authorities.

The official Tass news agency called the incident a "provocative act" and said that while the United States demands protection of its diplomats abroad, it is either unable or unwilling to provide such services for foreign representatives.

In an article titled "Washington's Double Standard," Tass condemned the bombing of its UN mission Tuesday.

The anti-Castro Cuban group Omega 7 first claimed responsibility. Later, a caller to the Associated Press claimed "Ukrainian nationals" set off the bomb.

"IT WAS ONLY by some lucky chance that none of the Soviet citizens who were in the building were hurt," Tass said.

Police in New York reported that four Soviets and four New York policemen were injured in the blast.

"The explosion at the Soviet mission in New York is a fresh link in the chain of bandit actions against foreign missions in the U.S.A. committed with the connivance of the U.S. authorities," said the article, by political observer Yuri Kornilov.

Omega 7 also took credit for a bomb that exploded outside the Cuban Mission to the UN last Friday. Two police officers standing guard sustained minor injuries in that explosion.

The blast late Tuesday shattered windows of nearby buildings and sent shards of glass flying into the street.

THE EXPLOSION blew a huge hole in the ground and buckled walls along the driveway to the garage of the diplomatic outpost on Manhattan's fashionable Upper East Side.

Three of the injured officers were passing the mission after leaving a police stationhouse on the same block as the Soviet enclave. The fourth officer was on guard duty. None of their injuries was described as serious.

The four Soviets were treated inside the mission by a Soviet doctor.