

# FBI Launches Probe Into Mission Bombing

From Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — The United States Saturday assured Cuba that it will launch "a thorough investigation" into the bombing of the Cuban diplomatic mission in Washington.

"We have expressed our regrets to the Cuban government that this unfortunate incident took place," said State Department press officer Mary Ann Bader. "We will make all efforts to bring those responsible to justice."

Authorities are looking for two suspects seen fleeing from an explosion that extensively damaged an office of the Cuban Diplomatic Interest Section in Washington early Saturday morning.

The Secret Service, which is responsible for protecting Washington embassies, turned over the case to the FBI Saturday.

"We don't know what it was," FBI spokesman Jeff Maynard said. "A small crater was left in the stairwell area, and it broke some glass. We believe the device was thrown over the wall."

A man telephoned Associated Press and United Press International

about an hour after the explosion and said a Cuban anti-Communist organization — Omega 7 — caused the blast. That group has claimed responsibility for other terrorist activities.

"We are responsible for the bombing of the Cuban Embassy," the man said. "We are continuing the struggle against Fidel Castro and the Communist dictatorship of Castro. We demand the withdrawal of all Cuban troops in Africa, where many Cubans die daily, forced by Castro to fight an unjust war."

Cuban troops have been in Angola, Ethiopia and other African countries.

A police spokesman said an officer saw "two ... males running like the devil" immediately after the blast. He said the suspects were armed with automatic pistols.

The Cuban mission is officially known as the Cuban Interest Section of the Czechoslovakian Embassy. The United States and Cuba severed diplomatic relations in 1961, but the Cubans have maintained the "interest section" in conjunction with the Czech embassy since 1977.