

# Omega 7 plants bomb at Miami travel company

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A time bomb was found in front of the Hialeah office of an airline charter company that specializes in tours to Cuba. The militant Cuban exile group Omega 7 took responsibility.

The bomb was found by a janitor at 9 o'clock last night — one to three hours before it was set to explode, police said. It was dismantled by members of the Metro bomb squad.

"It was a real thing," said Hialeah detective Bob Spiegel. "I heard that it would have done quite a bit of damage."

The bomb was hidden in a black vinyl briefcase. It was made of three pounds of dynamite, a hand grenade and ball bearings.

The airline company, American Airway Charters Inc., 1840 W. 49th St., Hialeah, has been arranging tours to Cuba since 1978.

The Associated Press and Latin radio station WQBA received word of the bomb from people claiming to represent Omega 7.

WQBA received a tape recording from the group taking responsibility for "bombs" planted yesterday. Authorities said no other bombs had been reported.

The FBI is investigating.

In March, the FBI termed Omega 7 the most dangerous terrorist organization in the country and said the government had assigned the highest priority to prosecuting its members — none of whom are known.

The last time the group surfaced it said it was responsible for the Sept. 11 assassination of Cuban diplomat Feliz Garcia-Rodriguez, who was shot while driving in New York City.

The group has taken responsibility for the bombing of a Miami cigar factory in January; the April 1979 murder of Carlos Munoz, a Cuban exile who lived in Puerto Rico; and the killing of Union City, N.J., resident Eulalio Negrin, an activist in Cuban exile affairs.

Omega 7 also took responsibility for the Oct. 28, 1979, bombing of the Cuban mission in which two New York City policemen were injured. The group admits at least 14 other terrorist acts, most of them in the New York area.

American Airway Charters and Travel Services Inc., another Miami-to-Cuba charter firm, were closed down in February by Hialeah Mayor Dale Bennett.

He ordered them shut because they did not have valid occupational licenses. The order came on the

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heels of a charge by Hialeah preacher Manuel Espinosa that exile trips to Cuba are a front for Cuban spying.

But State Department officials intervened, saying they wanted the two operations to stay in Hialeah until a new place could be found for them outside the country.

A U.S. District Court judge ruled later that month that Travel Services, which operated out of the same building as American Airway Charters, be allowed to remain in business while it sought its city license. American Airway Charters had obtained its license shortly before the judge's ruling and already was back in business.

American Airway Charters served as the carrier for Cuban political exiles who fled Castro's regime in 1978.