

N.Y. blast hurts 3 at Soviet air office

New York, N.Y. —AP— Explosives experts studied debris Monday from a bomb that exploded at the midtown office of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, injuring three persons and sending tremors up Fifth Avenue.

In separate telephone calls to the Associated Press, two groups claimed responsibility for the Sunday explosion, which injured two tourists from France and a New York woman.

The first caller claimed membership in the Jewish Defense League, and said the JDL planted the bomb to protest the imprisonment of Soviet dissidents.

Omega 7 claims responsibility

A second caller claimed the anti-Castro group Omega 7 bombed the office to show "solidarity with the people of Cuba and Afghanistan in their struggle against Soviet imperialism."

Later, a man identifying himself as Irving Rubin, JDL national chairman, told The New York Times that his group was not responsible, but added, "We wholeheartedly applaud the act."

The official Soviet news agency Tass, in a dispatch from New York, said the bombing of the Aeroflot office was "another malicious provocation . . . by thugs from the reactionary terrorist organizations."

Police said a ski-masked man in tan clothing dropped the bomb at the front door of the office. The explosion tore out the glass facade and windows of nearby businesses. Tremors were felt six blocks away.

The injured were treated for cuts and bruises.

Omega 7 callers also claimed responsibility for Sunday's bombing of a cigar factory in Miami and for the Dec. 11 bombing of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations.

Bombing in Montreal

Another bombing occurred early Monday in Montreal. Canadian police said a small bomb exploded outside the Cuban Consulate but caused little damage.

Meanwhile, at Kennedy International Airport, a weekend Aeroflot flight from Moscow had no problem as baggage handlers and ticket takers boycotted the airline.

"Aeroflot personnel are handling their own passengers," said Paul Friend, a spokesman for Pan American World Airways.

The employees, members of the Teamsters union, have threatened to strike Pan Am if the US airline fulfills its contract to provide baggage and passenger services for Aeroflot flights into New York and Washington.

The Teamsters are protesting the Soviet intervention of Afghanistan.

An Aeroflot flight with 130 passengers arrived in New York shortly after 3 p.m. Sunday and took off without incident for a return flight to Russia with 110 passengers around 7 p.m., Friend said.



—AP Photo

Police inspected damage to the Russian airline office