

Bomb hurts 4 at JFK; 2 others go off in Jersey

By DANIEL HAYS

With Miguel Perez, Hugh Bracken
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A bomb — apparently planted by an anti-Castro terrorist group — exploded in a suitcase moments before it was to be loaded on a Trans World Airlines jet at Kennedy Airport last night. Two bombs were exploded later in New Jersey, apparently by the same group.

Four baggage handlers were slightly injured in the Kennedy blast, which occurred at 8:48 p.m. outside the TWA terminal. The suitcase was to be put aboard a flight to Los Angeles with 181 passengers and a crew of 11. The L-1011 was scheduled to depart at 9 p.m.

Several cars warning of the bomb were received by the airline and police but all came after the explosion.

A man later called the Associated Press and United Press International in New York to claim responsibility for the three bombs. One went off at 11:06 p.m. in front of a pharmaceutical firm in Union City that sells drugs to Cuba four minutes later another bomb exploded building in Weekawken that houses a federally funded program for Cuban refugees. Damage was slight.

The caller, who said he represented the Omega-7 Cuban anti-Castro terrorist group, said: "We intended to blow up the plane without anyone on it."

"These actions were executed in retaliation for the work performed by the agencies in enterprises in mutual agree-



News photo by Tom Monaster

Baggage handling area outside TWA terminal at Kennedy Airport where explosion occurred last night.

ment with the tyranny of Fidel Castro," he said and hung up.

The injured baggage handlers, who complained of deafness and pain, were treated in Jamaica Hospital, Queens, and released.

Same message

Police Officer Robert Shaver of the Rochdale station said the blast had

done extensive damage to a luggage cart but the force of the explosion was dissipated because it was not in a confined area.

A TWA spokesman said the suitcase with the bomb was "late check-in baggage" and that all other pieces for the flight had been "containerized" and were already on board.

The plane was evacuated and police bomb squad members began to search it.

A TWA spokesman said that Flight 17 and two other TWA flights were being delayed by the blast but no other flights or airport operations were affected.