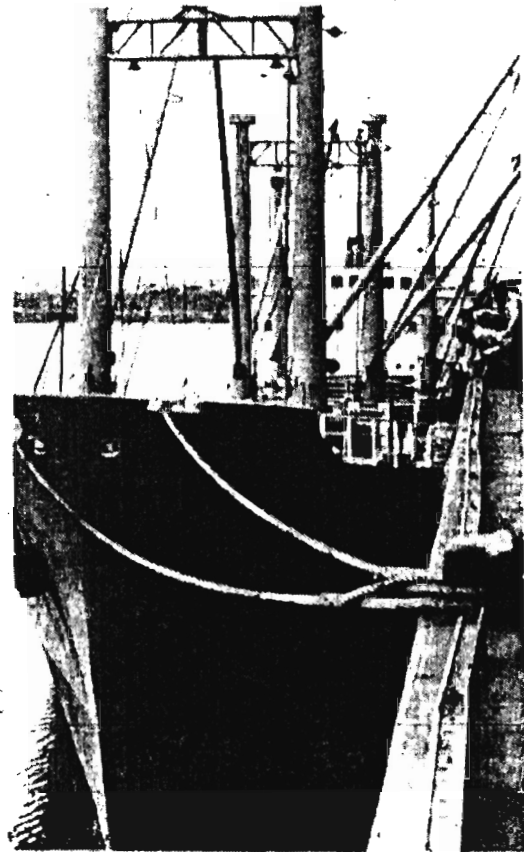


The blast which rocked the Cuban cargo ship Maria Teresa shattered an office window at Shed 8.



The Cuban ship at her King Edward Pier moorings.

## Castro Blames 'Imperialists'

# Cuban Vessel Bombed

## Bomb Blast Denounced By Castro

By GEORGE GAY

A small Cuban freighter taking on a cargo of baby food in Montreal Harbor was bombed early yesterday, but escaped serious damage.

Anti-Castro refugees in New York city claimed responsibility for the attack several hours later.

Fidel Castro, in a two-hour speech in Havana, blamed "cynical and shameless imperialists."

Cuban refugees in Montreal said they knew nothing about it.

Today, the 1,091-ton Maria Teresa was under tight police security.

The explosion at 3 a.m. did little damage to the ship. It snapped a fender cable at the bow of the vessel, and broke a

window in an office at Shed 8.

The RCMP, which has had the ship under observation since she arrived here a week ago to load general cargo, and National Harbors Board police immediately threw a curtain of security around the ship and the pier area.

Shortly after the blast, the executive committee of the Cuban Nationalist Association, an anti-Castro faction in New York, issued a statement to newsmen claiming the attack had been carried out by an underwater demolition team "in close co-ordination with Group 'F' of the sabotage section of the organization."

In addition, the association claimed some of the group had boarded the vessel and claimed to have captured "a number of

important and confidential records."

The captain of the Maria Teresa, 29-year-old Maximino Chacon, made no comment on the reported boarding of the ship. He said the noise and smoke of the explosion "reminded me of a fiesta."

Investigators yesterday attempted to determine the origin of the blast.

There were two prevalent theories, one being the charge had indeed been placed below the waterline near the ship, thus accounting for the rush of water.

The second theory, held more valid by most investigators, was that the explosive charge had been thrown from the roof of the shed and had exploded on contact with the water.

As there is no possible access to the roof from the ground at this point, police suggest the saboteurs climbed up onto the shed level from a grain elevator and sheds on Jacques Cartier Pier adjacent to the Maria Teresa's berth.

The charge did not hit the foredeck of the Maria Teresa, and if it was thrown, fell short of its target, accounting for the minimal damage according to police.

Threats to the ship have been made in recent months as she docked in other Western Hemisphere ports but yesterday's blast was the first involving actual sabotage by explosives.

The fact that Canada still maintains trade and diplomatic relations with Cuba indicated to some observers the reason why saboteurs picked Montreal as the scene of the attack.

United Press International

HAVANA, Aug. 10 — Premier Castro blamed "cynical and shameless imperialists" today for the bombing of the Cuban freighter Maria Teresa yesterday in Montreal.

In a two-hour speech to a irrigation and drainage convention, Castro said Canadian authorities should track down and punish the persons responsible for the bombing.

The bomb caused neither casualties nor damage to the 1,091-ton freighter. A Cuban refugee organization with headquarters in New York, claimed credit for the token attack.

In his speech, which was devoted mostly to domestic affairs, Castro also renewed his praise of Mexico for refusing to go along with other new-world nations in imposing sanctions on his government.

He denounced the U.S. attack on Communist bases in North Viet Nam which he said should serve as a warning to Cubans "to increase our vigilance and our hate."