

Bomb Blast at OAS Does Estimated \$100,000 Damage

WP

NOV 11 1974

2938

By Elizabeth Becker

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Saturday night bombing of the Pan American Union building, headquarters of the Organization of American States, was "obviously a politically motivated incident," Thomas J. Stone, press attache for the OAS, said yesterday.

He also said the bomber apparently came in "just like a tourist" and roamed freely through the marble building before planting the explosive.

The latest damage estimate to the building at 17th Street and Constitution Avenue could be as high as \$100,000, Stone said. There were no injuries.

Stone said an anti-Castro group was suspected of being behind the bombing. Currently the OAS is meeting in Quito, Ecuador, to determine if the decade-old embargo against Cuba should be lifted. Eight Latin American nations have established economic or diplomatic ties with Cuba in defiance of the embargo and it is likely that the OAS embargo will be lifted by Tuesday, according to diplomatic sources.

The bomb went off about 8 p.m. Saturday, and was attached to a phone booth in a 2d floor alcove between the OAS secretary general's office and the large Hall America. FBI agents said they have not yet been able to identify the type of explosive used.

The explosive ripped a hole through the roof, cracked the supporting upper walls of the enclave and tore off an iron railing near the phone booth. The subsequent concussion shattered windows on two sides of the building. The half dome glass panes above the three main doors on 17th Street

also were broken and plastic sheeting now covers the wrought iron portal.

Only one guard, C. Anguio, and an engineer for the Voice of OAS, Pedro Sedeno, 31, of Arlington, were in the building at the time. The Secretary-General, Jalo Plaza, a former President of Ecuador, is in Quito attending the conference.

"It's fortunate there wasn't a ball or something," said an employee. "The hall is often let to a U.S. or international agency on the weekend."

Immediately after the bombing, United Press International, District of Columbia police and The Washington Star received phone calls allegedly connected with the bombing. Police would not comment on their call as it will be used as evidence, but UPI said its caller identified himself as a member of the Cuban Movement C-4.

"Down with all members of the O.A.S. who support Cuba—they are traitors" the caller reportedly said. "Long live a free Cuba, down with the Communists."

The Washington Star's caller warned that there would be another explosion.

All public touring hours for the Pan American Union building are canceled until the Quito conference is over.

One guard is posted around the clock near the front gates and after closing hours, 5 p.m. on weekdays and 4 p.m. on weekends, a second entrance on Constitution Avenue is locked. A third underground tunnel entrance connecting the building with the OAS administration offices on 18th

and Constitution also is guarded 24 hours from that building.

He said he manages the building, which is not guarded by the Executive Protective Service as are other foreign embassies and diplomatic missions. Cummins said that he usually hires Spanish-speaking guards.

The building was erected in 1910, and its spacious pillared halls that surround an indoor garden have made it a major tourist attraction. Hundreds of people visit the building every week, according to Stone, and they can either amble on their own or pay 15c for a guided tour. The inlaid tiled garden courtyard and the art galleries in the basement and first floor, which attracts most of

the tourists, were not damaged.

Unknowing tourists tried to visit the popular Pan American Union building steadily while the FBI continued its investigation. Some asked about the three macaw birds that live in the interior garden along with hundreds of sparrows. The macaws were moved to the basement after they survived the bombing. There was no sign of sparrows.

Two years ago a bomb threat was phoned in during an OAS General Assembly meeting at the building. Stone said. The headquarters was evacuated, police searched the premises with dogs, but found nothing. Other bomb threats have been made against the OAS building on I Street, but they were usually aimed at the VISTA and Peace Corps organizations, which also share the building with the OAS.

MH

NOV 11 1974

2939

Exiles Call for Boycott

Cuban exile leaders in Miami Sunday called for a boycott of agricultural products imported from three Latin American countries.

Andres Nazario Sargen, secretary general of Alpha 66, a militant anti-Castro refugee group, said the boycott against Costa Rica, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic was being promoted because those countries "are supporting the lifting of sanctions against Fidel Castro. We're asking importers, businessmen and consumers not to buy their products."

There are an estimated

300,000 Cuban exiles in the Miami area. The appeal would be made by radio, telephone and word-of-mouth, he said.

Nazario also said that Alpha 66 is supporting a movement by "refugees" Lions Clubs in New York and New Jersey for a work stoppage today to protest the move by the OAS to lift the 10-year-old hemispheric isolation of the Castro regime.

Sargen and another Miami exile leader, Jorge Mas Canosa, said the boycott move was in response to appeals from the Miami exiles in Quito.

Security at Headquarters Is Tightened After Blast

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The headquarters of the Organization of American States, where a bomb blast broke windows and punched a hole in the ceiling, will be under tighter security and closed to the public this week.

"We're augmenting our guard force and we've asked police for a bit more protection," said Stuart Portner, assistant secretary for management.

HE SAID the OAS headquarters, formerly known as the Pan American Building, would remain closed to the public for at least a

week, beginning Monday. The building is located about three blocks from the White House and is a tourist attraction.

Thomas J. Stone, press attache for the OAS, said the person who planted the bomb which exploded Saturday night had entered the building "just like a tourist."

He set the damage estimate between \$30,000 and \$75,000. There were no injuries in the blast, caused by a device placed inside a telephone booth in the Hall of Flags on the second floor of the building.

A caller who telephoned the Associated Press after the explosion said a group calling itself "Cuba Movement C4" was responsible for the blast.

AN FBI spokesman said the bureau has never heard of the group.

Meanwhile, workers at an OAS annex building, located several blocks from the main building, were evacuated Monday morning when officials received a telephoned bomb threat.

Police said they received word from OAS officials of the threat about 9:40 a.m. Bomb squad officers were sent and the building was evacuated, but no bomb was found.

Exiles Plan OAS Protest

By ROBERTO FABRICIO
Herald Staff Writer

A score of Miami's Cuban exile organizations will stage a protest rally Sunday to oppose an upcoming Organization of American States (OAS) meeting to consider lifting economic sanctions against Cuba.

The protest is set for 5 p.m. Sunday at Dinner Key Auditorium.

The OAS foreign ministers meeting will be in Quito, Ecuador, on Friday.

"THE CUBANS living in exile in all parts of the world cordially invite you to join us in this concentration of free people against international communism," the English version of the invitation reads.

The Spanish version said the rally would be held "against coexistence, which is betrayal, and against the

lifting of economic sanctions on the Castro-Communist regime, and in support of the people of Chile . . ."

The pamphlet being distributed in both languages is signed by "Cuban exiles in the name of all the Cubans."

Militant Ramiro de la Fe has been doing the organizing and an unusually large number of militant, civic and labor organizations in the Cuban community have signed a manifesto of support. Attendance is expected to be large, observers said.

THE PROGRAM is scheduled to be short. Three religious representatives of three denominations are slated to make an invocation. A delegate from the Chilean government also is scheduled to speak in sup-

port of the rally, and an exile who has yet to be identified also will make a short speech.

Rafael Perez Doreste, former head of the Truth About Cuba Committee and a board member of the Cuban National Front, which is participating in the rally, said he hopes "many thousands here will show the hemisphere how strong the sentiment of free Cubans is against the lifting of the sanctions."

"Frankly, if we cannot rally several tens of thousands of exiles Sunday we are going to feel disappointed," said Perez Doreste.

The organizers of the rally also are asking all Cuban homes in Dade to fly Cuban flags with a black cloth as a signal of mourning for the dead and political prisoners in Cuba.