

FBI sets sights on 'hoods' of Omega 7

By CAMILLE KENNY

The FBI yesterday vowed to crack down in its investigation of the anti-Castro group Omega 7 in light of the sharp rise in the number of terrorist acts the group has claimed responsibility for over the past two years.

Following Tuesday night's bombing of the Soviet Union's Mission to the United Nations in New York, an FBI agent at the mission yesterday said the unit investigating Omega 7 is "starting to be beefed up."

Security was tightened at foreign missions in New York yesterday and police were searching for two men who left a package at the Soviet Mission at East 67th Street shortly before the blast.

"We're not talking politics anymore," said the agent, who did not

want his name published. "These guys are nothing but a bunch of hoods and we're going to get them."

New York City Patrolman Robert Moriority, 36, is being treated at the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital for an injury to his right eye incurred when the bomb exploded in the mission's garage.

Moriority, a 14-year veteran of the police department, was assigned to guard the mission. He underwent an ultrasonic test for foreign matter in his eye yesterday morning. A department spokesman said there is a 25 percent chance Moriority would lose vision in the injured eye.

The FBI agent said the agency needs help from the Cuban community in the area to ferret out the terrorists.

"This is getting out of hand," he said. "Somehow an appeal has

to be made to the public to help us out. A cop might lose his eye because of those jerks."

The agent said a caller identifying himself as a member of Omega 7 called a news service yesterday morning to apologize for injuring policemen in the blast.

"How can you put a bomb in New York City, or on Bergenline Avenue in Union City, and expect that someone isn't going to get hurt?" said the agent. "It's a miracle someone hasn't been killed yet."

Deputy Inspector Joseph DeMartine, commander of the Police Department's Arson and Explosion Division, said the bomb apparently consisted of 12 sticks of dynamite and a fuse.

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FBI goes after Omega 7

Hudson New Paper

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The Tuesday night incident brought the number of bombings claimed by Omega 7 in New York and New Jersey this year to six. Two occurred at the Cuban Mission to the United Nations—the last on Friday night and three others the night of March 26.

That night, bombs exploded in a suitcase at Kennedy airport, at the Almacen Espanol on New York Avenue in Union City, and at the storefront office of Eulalio Jose Negrin's New Jersey Cuban Program on Park Avenue in Weehawken.

Negrin, a member of the Committee of 75 which met with Cuban President Fidel Castro a year ago, was murdered on a Union City street three weeks ago.

Omega 7 claimed responsibility for Negrin's death, but both Union City police and the FBI are not convinced the group was responsible for the slaying.

Last year, there was a total of five bombings in this area. In 1976 and 1977, two bombings occurred each year in this area. The increase indicates that Omega 7 may be switching its emphasis to the New York area from Miami, which in past years has been the site of numerous bombings.

For example, there were 25 incidents in Miami in 1975 for which Omega 7 claimed responsibility. That

year marked the terrorist group's first act in New York, when the Venezuelan mission to the United Nations was bombed. Six bombings also occurred in Elizabeth that year.

This year no incidents of terrorism in Miami have been claimed by Omega 7, though an attempted bombing and a bombing of a Cuban-owned cigar factory did occur and agents there believe the incidents are connected to anti-Castro activity.

The increase in terrorist activity in this area seems to correspond with the Committee of 75's "dialogues" with Castro last year. At that time, a rift became apparent in the Cuban community between those who favored traveling to Cuba and those who were opposed to it. Some businesses which arranged travel to Cuba or sent care packages to the island, such as the Almacen Espanol, were the targets of bombs.

The New York FBI agent said Castro's trip to New York to speak at the United Nations last October could also be a reason for the increase in terrorist activity here.

"I don't think Fidel's visit helped," he said. "It appears now that the whole Soviet-Cuban situation has gotten to these guys, as well as the Committee of 75."