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Bombs Damage Hall, Cuban Offices in N.Y.

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Lincoln Center officials Friday canceled concerts by a Cuban orchestra after two bombs planted by an anti-Castro terrorist group damaged Avery Fisher Hall and the Cuban Mission to the United Nations.

Damage estimates were not available, but a spokesman for Lincoln Center said the music hall was closed Friday, but would be repaired in time to reopen tonight.

There were no injuries.

BOMB SQUAD detectives said the devices, which went off minutes apart without causing injuries, were "high order explosives, possibly dynamite or plastics."

"We're canvassing the areas (around the mission and music hall) asking people if they may have seen anything suspicious," a police spokesman said.

About a half hour after the explosions, a man called United Press International and claimed the bombs had been set by Omega 7, a terrorist group opposed to the Communist regime of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Omega 7 has claimed responsibility for a number of bombings in the New York metropolitan area since 1975, including a similar one at the Cuban Mission in September.

The blast outside Avery Fisher Hall occurred at 12:11 a.m. — about an hour and a half after a concert by the Orchestra D'Aragon fin-

ished. The explosives ripped apart several doors at the hall's entrance and blew holes in about a dozen plate glass windows on the first through fourth floors.

JOHN O'KEEFE, a spokesman for Lincoln Center, said the facility did not have an estimate of the damage.

He said there were "a handful of picketers outside the hall earlier in the evening, but we don't know if they were pro- or anti-Castro."

Employees at the Cuban mission on Manhattan's East Side refused to comment on the incident, but police said the blast at 12:05 a.m. destroyed the outer front door, blew away a canopy and heavily damaged a reinforced inner door.

It also blew gaping holes in windows of two apartment houses across the street and caused light damage to two parked cars. The aftermath of the explosion left glass strewn the width of the street.