

Bomb 'Dents' Soviet Ship; Anti-Castro Group Involved?

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ELIZABETH, N.J. — (UPI) — A bomb attached to the hull of the Soviet container ship Ivan Shepyetkov exploded early Thursday, officials said. There were no injuries and damage to the ship was minor.

A man claiming to represent a Cuban anti-Communist group, Omega 7, in telephone calls to United Press International and CBS in New York shortly after the 12:40 a.m. blast, said a frogman attached the explosive to the bottom of the 530-foot ship, moored at Pier 64 in Port Elizabeth.

The explosion put a six- to eight-inch wide, three- to four-inch deep dent in the starboard side of the hull, 14-feet below the water line and 10 feet forward of the rudder, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

THE SHIP had notified the Coast

Guard in New York a half hour before of a possible swimmer in the vicinity, officials said.

The Coast Guard cutter Line was dispatched to investigate the incident and the cutter Sauk took up station near the vessel. The Ivan Shepetkov was scheduled to leave for Philadelphia Thursday.

A second Soviet ship, the Skulptor Vuchetich, was berthed adjacent to the Shepyetkov, authorities said.

Shortly after the blast, divers were sent down to examine the hulls of both ships for the possibility of additional explosives and to assess damage, police said.

THE FBI entered the investigation in order to determine who was responsible for the explosion.

The Omega 7 organization cited by the telephone caller is made up

of Cuban refugees opposed to Premier Fidel Castro.

Omega 7 was linked to a bombing attempt at the Academy of Music in New York City last July 24. Three New Jersey men said to be members of Omega 7 were arrested at the time on charges of trying to set off a pipe bomb shortly after a pro-Cuban rally at the academy.