

The Milwaukee Journal

December 13, 1979. p. 5.

US rejects Soviet view of N.Y. bombing

AP and UPI

Washington, D.C. — The United States harshly rejected as scurrilous and malicious Wednesday Soviet attempts to link the bombing of its UN mission in New York City to the hostage crisis in Iran.

An article published Wednesday by the official Soviet news agency Tass said that, while the United States demanded protection for its diplomats abroad, it was either unable or unwilling to provide such protection for foreign representatives in the US.

The Tass article called the incident a "provocative act," and added: "The ex-

plosion at the Soviet mission in New York is a fresh link in the chain of bandit actions against foreign missions in the USA committed with the connivance of the US authorities."

State Department spokesman Thomas Reston warned that such articles "can only further injure our relations with the Soviet Union."

"The two cases — our hostages in Iran and the Soviet mission to the UN — to any observer have absolutely nothing in common," Reston said.

The bomb blast at the Soviet mission Tuesday night shattered windows on both sides of the block and injured four

police officers, none of them seriously. Four Russians inside the mission also were reported to have been slightly injured.

A man saying he was from Omega Seven, an anti-Castro terrorist group, called The Associated Press afterward and claimed responsibility for the explosion.

The anonymous caller read a statement saying the group opposed "Soviet colonialism which threatens our Hispanic America and the free world," and denouncing the "Communist tyranny" of Cuban President Fidel Castro.