The New York Daily News

December 13, 1979.

Security tightened for foreign envoys

By VINCENT LEE and FRANK LOMBARDI

Extra police were assigned to the Soviet Union UN Mission on E. 67th St. and to several other foreign consulates yesterday after the Soviets' "strong protest" over the bombing of its mission by an anti-Cuban terrorist group.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, compared the Tuesday night bombing here with the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Iran and said the explosion "is a fresh link in the chain of bandit actions against foreign missions in the U.S.A. committed with the connivance of the U.S. authorities."

State Department spokesman Thomas Reston replied in Washington that the Tass assertion "can only furthur injure our relations with the Soviet Union" and "can only be looked upon as a scurrilous attempt to justify the Iranian action in holding our diplomats hostage."

Denied access to TV film

Police and FBI officials reported that they had been unable to determine whether a television surveillance camera on the Soviet building filmed the men who throw the bomb. Investigators had not been given access to the camera or informed whether it taped the incident, said Deputy Inspector Joseph DeMartino, commander of the Arson and Explosion Division.

The bomb blast injured four policemen outside the building and two Soviet women inside the building and shattered glass in nearby buildings. One policeman was still hospitalized yesterday with an eye injury. He is Officer Robert Moriarity, 36, who was on guard duty outside.

Moriarity had spotted two men near the garage entrance of the mission at 136 E. 67th St., a converted private apartment house, and was walking toward them to check them out when the blast occurred shortly before 10 p.m., police said yesterday.

The two suspected bombers were described as 5-foot-10 and 5-foot-9, stocky and in their late 40s and wearing trench coats.

Responsibility for the explosion was claimed by a group calling itself Omega 7.

Additional policemen will now guard the Soviet Mission and Consulate, the Cuban Mission, and several other possible targets, including the Venezuelan Mission because of some trouble that country had with anti-Cuban groups.

In Washington, the White House "strongly and unequivocally" condemned the bombing of the Soviet Mission and declared that the United Stateswould do all in its power to see that such "outrages" were not repeated.