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COMPLETE SPORTS

FOUR BOMBS AT MURTAGH HOME

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Panther Hearing Judge

By JOSEPH P. COTTER and LEE DEMBART

Eight bombs exploded early today at three separate locations in the city—four of them at the home of Supreme Court Justice Murtagh, presiding judge in the Black Panther conspiracy case.

The blasts outside Murtagh's Inwood home occurred about 4 a.m. Painted on his sidewalk in huge red letters were the words: "Free the Panthers, the Viet Cong have won."

Heavy smoke was reported, though there was no fire. Police said they believed Murtagh and his family were at home at the time of the blasts.

Murtagh and his wife

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Half an hour before the Murtagh bombing, two Molotov cocktails were placed or thrown against Army and Navy recruiting booths at the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush Avs. and Av. H in Brooklyn. There were no injuries and only slight damage.

Earlier, at 1:55 a.m., two firebombs exploded across the street from the Charles St. police station in the West Village. No damage was reported there either.

There was also a suspicious fire during the night at Columbia University's International Law Library, 434 W. 116th St. Slight damage was reported on the second floor.

The blaze was labeled suspicious by Fire Dept. spokesmen, who said there was no apparent way the fire could have started by itself.

Judge Murtagh's home, a three-story building two doors from the corner of W. 217th St. and Park Terrace W., was ringed by policemen and bomb squad detectives after the blasts.

[illegible] toward the rear. Police were searching for residue of the bombs.

Police brass were on the scene Murtagh's home phone was being answered by a patrolman who insisted he had no information, could not reach the judge and did not know the circumstances of the bombings.

At the Charles St. station, headquarters of the 6th Precinct, Patrolman Ray Rauch of the Tactical Patrol Force saw the first firebomb explode there in a radio car parked outside 134 Charles St., directly across from the stationhouse.

As he approached the car, a second firebomb went off near a radio car parked in front of 138 Charles St. Neither car was damaged.

Lt. Richard Jason said the first blast sounded like "a bomb," and the second was "just a flash."

Believing he had seen the perpetrator, Rauch went to the roof of 134 Charles St. and fired a warning shot, but a search turned up no one.

Murtagh, who lives at 529 W. 217th St., has been hearing pretrial motions in the case of the 13 Panthers accused of plotting to blow up police stations, department stores and other public places.

many have 4 children — Joan, 21, Tommy, 16, Maeve, 13 and John Jr. 9.

Police said Three of the bombs went off in front of the house and one near the garage toward the rear.