

Films

Post 3/27/72

Seized

NEW YORK—U.S. Treasury agents forced the suspension of the first New York festival of Cuban films when they seized some of the films on the ground that their importation violated the trading with the enemy act.

Treasury agents, armed with search and seizure warrants, confiscated the films Saturday, hours before the second day of the festival was to begin at the Olympia Theater here.

Assistant theater manager Faris Bouhafa said he believed the treasury officials allowed the festival, which was to include 15 documentaries and seven feature length films over 10 days, to complete its first day Friday because United Nations delegates had been invited to attend the opening day.

"It would have been extremely embarrassing to the united States to have stopped it then," Bouhafa said.

The opening night ceremonies were disrupted by anti-Castro demonstrators and Bouhafa said before the festival theater windows were broken and three incendiary bombs were planted inside, one of which went off causing minor damage.

Bouhafa said the festival sponsored by American Documentary Films of California, would continue at an unspecified date and the seizure would be challenged in court.

Lawyers representing American Documentary Films and U.S. writers are scheduled to appear Tuesday in Federal Court where they will file suit to allow four Cuban film makers to enter the United States and attend the festival.

The films in the festival are scheduled to be shown in Washington at the American Film Institute.