

# 'Mortar' Misfires, Scatters Flyers Aimed at White House

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By Alfred E. Lewis

A mortar launcher, apparently designed to shower the White House's back yard with anti-Communist leaflets, was detonated about 12:15 p.m. yesterday in a back yard at the northwest corner of 15th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.

It broke up the metal base of a group of National Park Service workmen. Now a jagged hole in the plywood side of their tool shed and littered the sheds floor with the leaflets.

It also broke up the composition of the U.S. Secret Service, the Army and the Air Force from Washington, D.C. The whose agents were still analyzing powder, during last night. And the report mention the intelligence division of the Metropolitan Police Department and the U.S. Park Police, who were helping all the other agencies pore over the collection of leaflets for clues to the identity of their distributors.

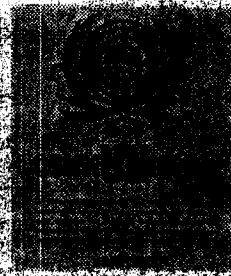
The explosive device, investigators theorized, consisted of a tin can of the stewed-tomato or spring-bean variety, which had been crammed with printed leaflets, crying out in various sizes of type against

the Communist cause and America's military role anything about it.

The device itself was rather professionally designed, police concluded, as a sort of mortar launcher, which was supposed to spray its load of 25-ounce leaflets from the back yard in which the fuse was lit. Had the back yard not been there, the mortar would have arched onto the hillside at the rear of the White House, and perhaps even onto the White House grounds. Within the tin itself a second explosive device was designed to rupture the metal and release the leaflets, perhaps in the can's flight.

"How much longer will the American people stand idly by while their constitutional rights and freedoms are battered away through secret treaties and U.N. commitments made without their knowledge or consent?" one of the leaflets wanted to know.

A second leaflet pledged "our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor" to the fight to preserve "our American heritage." Both were signed "Minutemen."



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One of the pamphlets intended for White House