

Blasts Spur Tight Guard On 2 Missions

By William L. Claiborne
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Secret Service yesterday began round-the-clock police security at the Portuguese Embassy and the Rhodesian Information Office here, following successive outdoor bomb explosions that damaged the two foreign offices late Saturday.

An underground "Revolutionary Action Party" claimed responsibility for the bombings in a note to the Associated Press and said the blasts were in retaliation for oppression of blacks in Africa.

The explosions brought to seven the number of apparently politically motivated bombings of foreign offices in Washington in the last two months. Metropolitan and federal police have responded with varying degrees of special attention to all embassies and chanceries here.

See BOMB, A6, Col. 4

BOMB, From A1

The blasts, which occurred a few minutes and about a half-mile apart west of Connecticut Avenue NW Saturday, damaged the Portuguese Embassy at 2125 Kalorama Rd. NW and the Rhodesian Information Office at 2852 McGill Ter. NW. Dozens of windows in those offices and in surrounding homes and buildings were blown out, but there were no injuries.

'Fixed Post' Security

The Executive Protective Service, the diplomatic police branch of the Secret Service, yesterday told the State Department that additional patrols and "fixed post" security at the two missions were being instituted because of the explosions.

Later yesterday, special officers were at both buildings, and a Secret Service spokesman said they would remain indefinitely while the bomb-

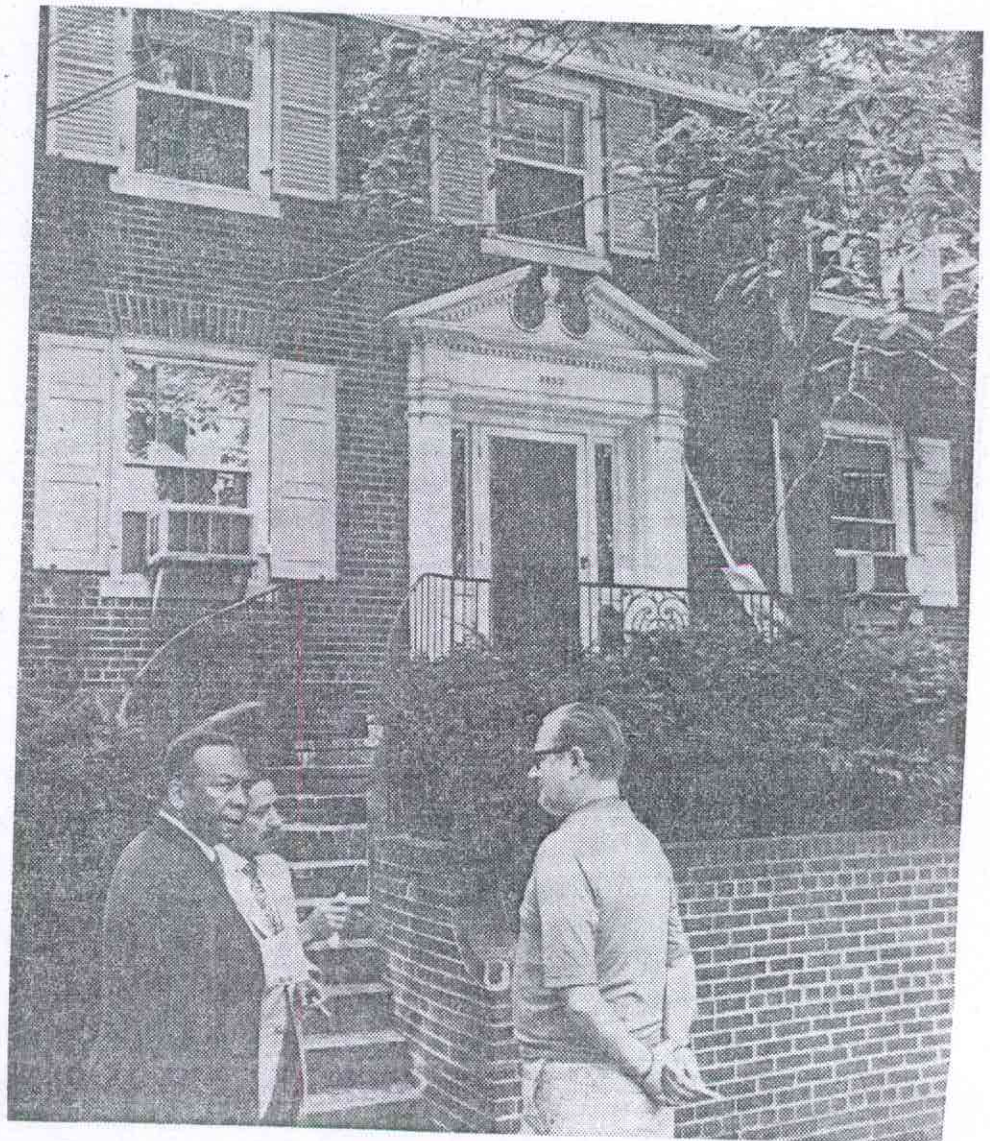
ings are investigated.

Metropolitan police said they interviewed several witnesses who said they saw persons running and driving away from the bomb scenes. However, police said last night that no suspects had been identified.

A State Department spokesman said an expression of apology and regret would be prepared for the Portuguese government today.

Because the U.S. government does not officially recognize Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith's white supremacy government, no statement

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Mayor Walter E. Washington inspects bomb damage at the Rhodesian Information Office with John Hopper, center, and Kenneth Towsey, right, of the mission

United Press International

was expected to be made to the Rhodesian office, which is regarded as a private organization by the State Department, the spokesman said.

Police in Neighborhood

A Secret Service spokesman said Executive Protective Service police were in the neighborhood of the bombed offices but not in the immediate vicinity at the time of the explosions.

When asked how many men were patrolling embassy neighborhoods Saturday night, he said only that a total of 80 men are normally on duty, spread over three shifts. Taking into account days off, this would mean that approximately 20 Executive Protective Service patrolmen were on duty that night.

The month-old service intends to have a total force of 850 men on duty at embassies and the White House by the end of the year, he said, but recruiting efforts have just begun.

The spokesman would not say if Executive Protective Service patrolmen saw anything before or after the blasts that would aid Metropolitan Police in their investigation.

However, a second district policeman investigating the explosions quoted an Executive Protective Service policeman as saying shortly after one of the explosions, "Damn it, I just drove away from this place."

Ambassador Vacationing

The first bomb blast occurred at about 11:30 p.m. at the Portuguese Embassy. The ambassador, Vasco Vieira Garin, is vacationing in Portugal and the only occupants at the time were servants.

Police Lt. Lloyd A. Hill said a bomb appeared to have been placed approximately 10 feet from the building and slightly to the right of the front door.

It shattered the building's front windows, uprooted a tree on the grounds and broke windows of the nearby Windsor Park Hotel.

Hill said the blast at the Rhodesian Information Office occurred less than 10 minutes later and was first reported by a policeman who was on his way to the Portuguese Embassy explosion.

That blast broke 20 window panes in the building, shattered another 10 panes in an adjacent home and caused some exterior damage to the information office. The building was not occupied at the time, he said.

The bomb used in the second explosion, Hill said, was also placed about 10 feet from the building and slightly to the right of the front door.

Both foreign offices, which are between Connecticut and Massachusetts Avenues and are separated by a narrow portion of Rock Creek Park, have semi-circular entranceways in front.

Hill said police have been unable to determine the type of explosive used. Evidence found at the scene has been sent to the FBI for analysis, he said.

Shortly after the explosions, the Associated Press received two telephone calls directing attention to a letter in the news service's mailbox. After postal officials and Secret Service agents searched a locked mailbox, the AP found an envelope on which was affixed a cutout black arrow.

Message Found

Inside was a file card on which was typed this message:

"We are an African people and we are at war with all nationalistic institutions, organizations and governments, etc. that conduct and lend support to exploitation and oppression of African people around the world. Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe shall and will be freed. The Revolutionary Action Party."

Attached to the card was a button with green, black and red stripes—a symbol often associated with the black nationalist movement.

However, neither metropolitan police nor the Secret Service would link the bombings with any organization or movement.

Kenneth Towsey of the Rhodesian office said, "One could only suppose from the fact that our office and the Portuguese Embassy received attention at approximately the same time that there was some kind of political motivation from people with ideological positions in regard to southern Africa."

Wave of Bombings

Portuguese Embassy officials could not be reached for comment.

The wave of foreign mission bombings here began July 1 when the Inter-American Defense Board building at 2600 16th St. NW was damaged by a pipe bomb.

On July 2, fire bombs exploded at four Latin American embassies within minutes of each other. The embassies were those of Argentina, Haiti, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic.

All five bombings were believed to have been motivated by a meeting of ministers of the Organization of American States that was being held in Washington.

On Feb. 21, 1968, a predawn bomb blast ripped a hole in the Soviet Embassy at 1125 16th St. NW and on Jan. 29,

1967, a three-foot hole was blown in the front wall of the Yugoslav Embassy at 2416 California St. NW.

Last month, the Treasury Department reported to a Senate Investigations Subcommittee that 5,000 bombings occurred across the country between Jan. 1, 1969, and mid-April, 1970.

Bombings Shock Residents in Area

By Martin Weil

Washington Post Staff Writer

"The house shook," said Mrs. John P. Jackson of 2840 McGill Ter. NW. "It absolutely shook. I never heard such a noise in all my life."

Mrs. Jackson lives two doors from the Rhodesian Information Office, 2850 McGill Ter., which was damaged Saturday night by a bomb explosion.

That explosion and the one at the Portuguese Embassy across Rock Creek Park, at 2125 Kalorama Rd. NW, broke windows and shattered the night's tranquility in two of Washington's most elegant and sedate sections.

With their embassies, gracious homes and imposing town houses, Kalorama, where the Portuguese Embassy is located, and Cleveland Park, site of the Rhodesian Office, have long been among the

city's most desirable neighborhoods.

Saturday's bombings gave Mrs. Jackson second thoughts.

"We're not safe anywhere, are we?" she said. "I think it's dangerous to be near these embassies now."

7 This Year

The Yugoslav Embassy chancery at 2410 California St. NW in Kaorama was bombed on Jan. 29, 1967. Although five diplomatic offices were bombed earlier this year, none was in either Kaorama or Cleveland Park.

Asserting that they feel no less secure in Kalorama or Cleveland Park than formerly, some persons pointed out that while many embassies are located there many others are scattered throughout the city.

Some also expressed belief that the embassy bombings

came as reprisals for specific policies of the nations involved, rather than part of a campaign of indiscriminate terrorism.

"I don't think the area is less safe," said Victor Sadd, who lives on Normanstone Terrace near the Rhodesian office, which is just west of the Shoreham Hotel.

Residents Expect More

However, among the Sunday morning strollers who paused on oak-shaded Kalorama Road to inspect the damaged Portuguese Embassy, there were few who did not express shock. Many saw the blasts as gloomy portents.

"With conditions as they are," said Thelma Clark, 2000 Connecticut Ave., more such explosions "wouldn't surprise you."

A vigorous, white-haired

man in a seersucker jacket who did not want to give his name called the blast a shocking thing and added: "We've been worrying about the neighborhood for some time. 'If I walk down the street at night, I now carry a heavy cane . . . The neighborhood is not as safe as it used to be.'"

Standing outside the two-story brick house occupied by the Rhodesian Information Office, Kenneth Towsey, head of the office, said he found some irony in the blast that destroyed its front windows.

While Rhodesia (which has been criticized for its treatment of its black minority) "is sometimes supposed to be in an explosive situation," he said, "It's not as explosive as this."