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# MANY BUILDINGS EVACUATED HERE IN BOMB SCARES

## 15,000 Sent Into Streets— 137 Incidents Are Reported Following Blasts Earlier

## SOME BUSINESSES SHUT

## 'Revolutionary Force' Takes Credit for the Attacks— Governor Asks Action

By HOMER BIGART

A rash of bomb scares caused disruptions in the city yesterday in the wake of terrorist bomb explosions in three midtown big-business skyscrapers.

Powerful bombs, exploding in the early morning within a time span of 29 minutes, shattered walls, windows and plumbing in the three buildings, but injured no one.

It was the start of a day that saw at least a dozen buildings evacuated in the metropolitan area as the result of bomb threats, with perhaps as many as 15,000 people affected.

In many cases the people in the buildings milled around in the streets and in coffee shops and taverns until the police—who responded to 137 such threats between midnight and 4 P.M. yesterday—completed their search of the buildings.

Some of the affected businesses decided to shut down for the day and sent their employees home an hour or so early. Trials were interrupted in courthouses in the city and on Long Island.

Through the tense day, the sounds of police sirens gained new significance for New Yorkers, and passers-by seeing large

groups of people on a midtown side street during the afternoon seemed to assume that a bomb scare was the cause.

"Are they blowing up that building, too?" one man asked his companion calmly.

### No Immediate Bomb Data

The police investigation of yesterday morning's midtown bombings was still in its early stages, with the police saying it would be "several days" before they could determine the composition of the explosives used.

There were these related developments yesterday:

¶Governor Rockefeller, noting the relative ease with which dynamite can be bought in most of the state, urged that the relevant laws be tightened by the Legislature.

¶Mayor Lindsay, calling the perpetrators of the bombings "not only morally reprehensible, but also self-defeating," said he had asked Police Commissioner Howard R. Leary to use "every resource at his command to apprehend those responsible."

¶The continuing investigation of the explosions that killed at least two persons and demolished a townhouse at 18 West 11th Street last Friday was slowed by the demand for the police "bomb" squad's services elsewhere around the city. Another piece of dynamite was

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found there, however.

Before yesterday's bombings, the terrorists—who identified themselves in anonymous letter as a revolutionary group—gave the police 34 minutes to clear the cleaning women and janitors from the three buildings before the first of the bombings.

### First Blast on Schedule

The warning was delivered by a man with a deep voice who called the police special emergency number, 911, at 1:06 A.M. He said bombs were set to go off at 1:40 A.M. in the Socony Mobil Building, 150 East 42d Street; the I.B.M.

Building, 425 Park Avenue, at 55th Street, and the General Telephone and Electronics Building, 730 Third Avenue, at 46th Street.

The first blast went off precisely at 1:40 A.M. in a hallway on the 34th floor of the 42-story Socony Mobil Building.

At 1:48 A.M. the second bomb went off in a 12th floor men's room of the I.B.M. Building. The third explosion, which caused the heaviest damage, demolished the 21st floor of the 41-story General Telephone Building.

After the blasts the city was plagued with false bomb threats that drove thousands into the streets, emptying huge office buildings, the Federal Court Houses in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and the New York Times Building.

### Media Get Messages

A message was sent to news media by an organization calling itself Revolutionary Force 9 and claiming credit for the bombings.

United Press International said it received a special-delivery letter from the organization five hours after the explosions. The letter said that the three companies—Socony, I.B.M. and General Telephone and Electronics—were hit because they were "enemies of all life." The letter was postmarked 1 A.M. March 12, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The letter said the three corporations profited from defense contracts and the Vietnam war, from racist oppression, imperialism, "sexism" and pollution, and that they imposed "anti-human work" on their employees.

The letter concluded: "In death-directed Amerika there is only one way of a life of love and freedom: to attack and destroy the forces of death and exploitation and to build a just society—revolution."

Its rhetoric was similar to a letter received by the U.P.I., The New York Times and other medias after a series of corporate bombings last November.

### Other Companies Listed

That letter also was said to have been by anti-Establishment revolutionaries who said they had singled out headquarters of the Chase Manhattan Bank, General Motors and Standard Oil of New Jersey for the November bombings because those giant corporations were evil.

There have been more than 100 bombings in the city in the last 12 months. Bomb threats during the calendar year 1969 reached a record 2,587, more

han double the 1,094 reported in 1968. A Police Department official said the overworked bomb squad was too busy to compute the number of threats since last Jan. 1.

Asked if it was possible to compare the force and composition of yesterday's explosives with those used in other recent bombings here, Assistant Chief Inspector Albert A. Seedman, in charge of the investigation, said it was too early to make such a determination.

#### 'Extensive Damage'

He said it would be "several days" before the police could sift through the rubble sufficiently to begin to determine the composition of the explosives.

"It's a big job," he said. "There was such extensive damage."

Inspector Seedman said an examination of the sites of yesterday's explosions showed the damage to be more extensive than in such recent cases as the Marine Midland Building and Federal Office Building explosions last year.

But he cautioned that the extent of damage was dependent not only on the bomb itself, but also on its placement and the type of construction in the building where the explosion took place. He noted that "several" of the bombs last year had been strategically placed and said that this also appeared to have been true yesterday.

The inspector said that yesterday's bombs had been placed in lavatories, where they were "secreted in ceilings and walls."

In Albany, Governor Rockefeller said the time had come for stricter control on the sale of explosives. The current session of the Legislature may have to enact severe restrictions of the purchase of explosives, he said, adding: "This looks like something that should be looked into as soon as possible."

At City Hall, Mayor Lindsay praised the police for quick action in evacuating the threatened buildings.

Elsewhere in the country, rigid security measures were

enforced at the Justice Department in Washington after a telephone threat. No bomb was found.

In Louisville, Ky., government buildings, private businesses, one school, the Louisville General Hospital and the State

Fairgrounds received telephoned threats. At least nine buildings were threatened and three were evacuated. The police found no bombs at any of the sites.

After the bombings of last November, security measures in the big-business skyscrapers of Manhattan became the tightest since World War II. Lobby guards began a more careful check of parcels and identity cards. But total security seemed an impossible dream.

Private security agencies reported yesterday an increase in requests for protection.

The latest series of bombings was heralded by the deep-voiced stranger who warned the police:

"Listen closely. At about 1:40 A.M. bombs will explode at all of these addresses:

"At 150 East 42d Street, at 730 Third Avenue and at 425 Park Avenue. [The caller repeated the addresses twice]. Evacuate everyone now from these buildings."

The first bomb, at the Socony Mobil Building, blew holes 70 long by 40 feet wide in the floor and 25 feet square in the ceiling. It mangled the walls, pipes and 200-pound steel doors in a central corridor but did little damage to the offices. The police believe the bomb was placed in the men's room off the corridor, which is never locked.

The second bomb, at the IBM Building, also was apparently planted in the men's room. It blew out a wall, buckled the ceiling and damaged two offices.

#### Tracks Searched

Thereafter the police were busy tracking down bomb hoaxes. Grand Central Terminal was an early target. The Penn Central police received an anonymous telephone call at 4:29 A.M. A male voice said four bombs had been placed in

the terminal's Park Avenue lower-level tunnel.

Policemen and firemen searched tracks and platforms. Power was shut off from 5:30 A.M. to 6:10 A.M., but only one train, a New Haven division local, was deployed. Due to leave Grand Central at 5:35 A.M. for Stamford, it was held at the station 19 minutes to wait for passengers who were kept away during the search. From midnight to 4 P.M., the

police received 137 bomb threats. None affected subway service, although headquarters of the Transit Authority, 370 Jay Street, Brooklyn, received an anonymous bomb threat.

At least eight buildings were evacuated in the city, including the 30-story United States Court House, on Foley Square, and the six-story Federal Court House at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn.

The Canadian consulate-general's offices, at 680 Fifth Avenue, was evacuated in the afternoon after the police reported a threat against that building. Employees of The New York Times were required to leave their offices at 2:30 P.M. and returned to work at 4 P.M. The Daily News also received threats but didn't evacuate its building.

A threat to the Pan Am Building in the Grand Central area caused evacuation of the first 10 floors of the 59-floor skyscraper. Other buildings evacuated were 10 Columbus Circle, a building attached to the Coliseum; the Anaconda Building, 25 Broadway, and nine floors occupied by the RCA Building, 43d Street and the Avenue of the Americas.

LaGuardia Airport received a telephone threat and some packages were searched, but there was no disruption of service.

A male called the United Nations headquarters at 3:30 P.M. to say seven bombs had been planted in the building and would go off at 4 P.M. Security officers and firemen made a rapid search, but found no bombs. Officials decided against evacuating the delegates, the 4,000 staff members and visitors.

Bloomington's, at Lexington Avenue and 59th Street, received a bomb threat at 8:15 A.M., one hour and 45 minutes before the department store opened. Only a skelton staff was inside the building and they were asked to leave while the police searched the ten floors. The store opened on schedule.

There were bomb threats in the suburbs, too. Five Nassau County court and office buildings were evacuated in Mineola. In Trenton, a 13-story building housing the New Jersey State Labor and Industry Department was emptied.

Eleven Consolidated Edison Company plants in the city and one at Indian Point, N. Y., were searched after the police received an anonymous threat that a bomb would go off in one of the 12 plants. Nothing was found.