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ROCKET 170

HOUSTON, Tex. AP — A homemade rocket was launched across from the Federal Building Monday, sending thousands of tiny leaflets signed "Minutemen" fluttering to earth, police said.

The Minutemen is a national conservative organization which claims to fight communism.

Officers said the foot-long rocket was fired from a public parking lot. When the device reached its highest point, a small explosion blew open a capsule containing the printed leaflets.

"How much longer will the American people stand idly by while their constitutional rights and freedoms are bartered away through secret treaties and United Nations commitments made without their knowledge or consent?" one leaflet said.

Sgt. Joseph E. Armstrong said the metal rocket fell harmlessly to earth without striking anyone or parked automobiles.

Armstrong said he wanted to find the persons who launched the rocket to question them under a law that prohibits discharging fireworks in the city.

JS-CD845pcs Nov. 18 1968