

CHECK IS STARTED IN 8 BOMB CASES

Evidence From Banks in 3
Cities Sent to the F.B.I.

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

Eight time bombs found in bank safe-deposit boxes in New York, Chicago and San Francisco Friday, bank lease records and handwritten letters that alerted authorities were sent to Washington for analysis by the Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday as a nationwide man-Charles Mohr."

That name—signed on the leases of the deposit boxes—could be an alias for one or more persons who planted the bombs last July and sent letters to news media Friday. The letters described the location of the devices and warned of a campaign to use bombs to "kidnap property and offer it in exchange for the freedom of our people."

While the F.B.I. declined to discuss the progress of its investigation, police authorities in the three cities noted that it would have been possible for one person to have placed each of the devices.

July Visits Recorded

They noted that the banks recorded visits to the boxes here on July 14, in Chicago on July 15 and 16 and in San Francisco on July 16, a Friday when the banks closed at 6 P.M., Pacific Daylight Time, in the West Coast city.

The bombs defused on Friday were found at branches of the Marine Midland Grace Trust Company, the First National City Bank and the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company here; the Continental Illinois National Bank, the First National Bank of Chicago and the Northern Trust Company in Chicago, and the Crocker Citizens National Bank and the Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco.

The letters giving the locations mentioned a ninth bank, the Bank of America in San Francisco, and authorities confirmed that a bomb had exploded in a safe-deposit box there on Sept. 7, though the incident was not publicized at the time.

Chicagoans Questioned

The leases on most of the boxes, including the one that exploded in September, listed the renter's name as Christopher Charles Mohr and his address as 560 West Arlington Place, Chicago.

In an investigation following the September blast, agents of the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division questioned tenants, the owner, and the superintendent of the building at that address and learned that a young man who identified himself as a physicist from Boston had rented a third-floor apartment in December, 1970, but had stayed there only two days.

A spokesman for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division said yesterday that none of those questioned in September were possible suspects in the current case.

According to the police in the three cities, the investigation was focusing at present on a profile of the suspect or suspects.

Contained Powder Change

The time bombs, they pointed out, had required a certain amount of electronic ingenuity to construct. Described in the warning letters as "demonstration time bombs," they each consisted of about a half-pound of powder explosive charge attached to a battery-driven calendar clock as a timing detonator.

The timing device, according to the letters, was set in each case on a 217-day cycle by combining a particular date with a particular day of the week to close two switches simultaneously, completing the detonation circuit.

Another factor in the suspect profile was the broad vocabulary and command of English demonstrated in the warning letters. Also noted was the fact that all "A's" and "L's" in the letters were drawn as capitals.

In Chicago, the police said that personnel of the three banks where bombs were found had provided similar, though vague, descriptions of the man who rented the deposit boxes. He was described as well-groomed, short-haired, in his 20's and about 5 feet 9 inches tall. He was said to have been wearing a business suit and carrying a briefcase.