

Bombings Boost Banks' Security

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As banks tightened security yesterday and the FBI continued its hunt for 16 young radicals, the question remained, where will the bombers strike next?

The stated purpose of the five bombs, discovered Friday in two banks in San Francisco and six banks in New York and Chicago, was not to blow up the banks but to show the power the bombers possessed.

In letters to the news media across the nation, the bombers said their next step will be to hide time bombs and demand the release of political prisoners as the price of revealing where the explosives are hidden.

Banks Confer

In New York yesterday officials from 11 banks met to discuss the security problem.

In San Francisco Donald White, public relations director of Crocker Bank, where one of the bombs was discovered, said:

"We're always upgrading

security and of course, we're taking a look at this situation.

"The problem is, we're in a business that serves the public, and if we went into a total security operation obviously we wouldn't have any customers."

In one bank in Chicago, as soon as the bomb was deactivated, a camera was installed in front of the vault containing the deposit boxes to deter would-be bombers.

Highway Targets

The bombers also have threatened to plant the time explosives in highways under construction as another way of strengthening their ransom demands.

But one transportation expert said that normal inspection during construction should prevent any bombs being hidden in the concrete.

It has been learned that authorities were looking yesterday for a former member of the radical Weatherman group who lives in the Bay Area.