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Bomb Blasts Home Of a C.I.A. Official In a Denver Suburb

DENVER, April 29 (UPI)—A pipe bomb explosion outside the suburban home of a Central Intelligence Agency official may have been caused by radicals inspired by the bombing of a bank hours earlier, or may have been the work of a "crackpot", the police said today.

The bomb exploded in front of the home of James Sommerville, a C.I.A. regional director, 30 minutes before midnight Monday, shattering windows and shredding portions of the roof on the one-story brick house in South Denver. Windows in a house next door were also broken.

Bricks were blown from the front wall and a sprinkler system inside the house were damaged, but neither Mr. Sommerville's wife, Allane, nor their 14-year-old son, asleep at the time of the blast, were hurt.

Mrs. Sommerville, who said that her husband was in Texas, added: "I know people are connecting this with his job but there's no real proof. I really can't say what happened. I was asleep at the time. The explosion woke me up."

A bomb squad detective, Fred Stevenson, said that the blast did not appear related to the explosion of a satchel of dynamite at the American National Bank in Denver 12 hours earlier. Six employees received minor injuries in that explosion. But he said that the pipe bomb, pushed against the foundation of the Sommerville home, might have been planted by radicals who got the idea from the bank explosion.

"You get one bombing and there immediately follows a rash of other," he said. "What with all the publicity in the papers about the C.I.A., it could have been a radical group. Who can say?"

The police said that they were checking with other cities in which terrorists have set off explosions to see if there was a pattern to the bombings.