

# A Bomb Is Disarmed By Army in Newark At Mexican Offices

By WALTER H. WAGGONER  
Special to The New York Times

NEWARK, July 16 — Two Army demolition experts disarmed a time bomb in a trash can outside the Mexican consulate and Mexican national airlines offices here early today.

The bombing incident was the first in a series of 10 over the last three months to take place outside New York City, where the police disarmed a bomb yesterday at French tourist office in Rockefeller Center. All the bombings have been aimed at offices of foreign countries that trade with Cuba.

About two hours before the Army bomb specialists reached the Mexican office here, an anonymous caller with what was described as "a very distinct Spanish accent" told a telephone operator at the Newark Star-Ledger that a bomb at the Mexican consulate at 48 Commerce Street would "go off in a few minutes."

Patrol cars from Newark's Third Precinct were on the scene almost immediately. Lacking a regular bomb disposal squad, the Police Department sought help from the Army's 54th Ordnance Detachment at Fort Monmouth, about 40 miles away.

The first Newark police to arrive were Patrolman Edward Wood and Patrolman John Fitzsimmons. After checking the door of the consulate, they spotted a brown paper bag in the trash can.

Without touching the package, from which they could hear a ticking noise, they carefully lifted the can and carried it to the center of the street.

Soon afterward, Lieut. Michael E. McFadden and Specialist 6 Charles Wiggins Jr. were in a 54th Ordnance vehicle racing up the Garden State Parkway with a State Police escort. They arrived at the site roped off in the quiet, darkened commercial and financial heart of the city, at about 3 A.M.

Lieutenant McFadden jumped from the Army truck before it had stopped, and shouted: "Is it ticking?"

After the police, guarding the trash can from a respectful distance, replied that it was, the lieutenant gingerly removed the device from the can. Then, with cool competence, he separated the bomb into two sections.

While he worked with one part, Specialist Wiggins took the other and, crouching behind a large mail storage box nearby, deactivated it. After about five silent, suspenseful minutes, the job was done.

Lieutenant McFadden declined to disclose how he had deactivated the bomb. He explained that a Canadian demolition expert, who had disarmed several explosive devices during a rash of "mail box bombings" in Canada, had disclosed his method, only to have the next bomb blow up in its face because a minor change had been made in the device.

Police Director Dominick A.

Spina described the device as an extremely dangerous, efficient weapon—a lethal combination of a clock, blasting caps, flashlight batteries, a military-type of plastic explosive and about 100 three-inch nails. The bomb was within a shoe box painted gray and the box was in a brown paper bag.

"Anyone within 100 yards could have been badly hurt,"

said Mr. Spina, "and windows would have been broken in six or eight buildings."

Lieut. Kenneth O'Neill, head of the New York Police Department's bomb squad, went to New York today to discuss the similarity of the incident and the weapons with the Newark police and the F.B.I.

Later, speaking of the Newark incident, Mr. Spina said: "I think the same people are doing it in New York."

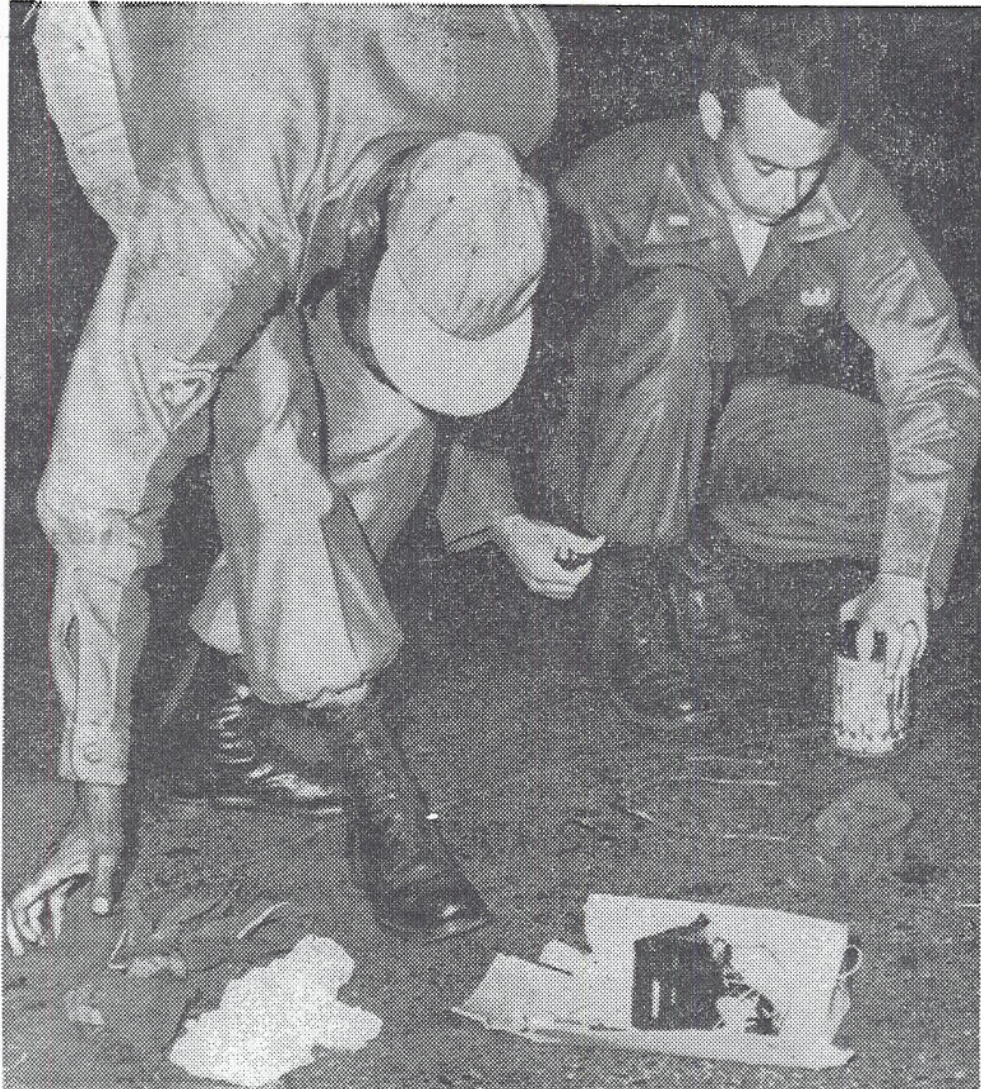
He said that the C-4 plastic explosive could be obtained only from one of the armed forces and that the construc-

tion of the device was "a very good job."

### Bomb Similarities Noted

Some "very interesting similarities" have been found between the bomb that detectives dismantled Monday at the French Government Tourist Office and the scraps of debris left from bombs that have exploded at other foreign offices in the city since April 22.

Technical tests at the Police Laboratory, 235 East 20th Street, have not proved conclusively that the bombs came from the same source, Dr.



Specialist 6 Charles Wiggins, left, and Lieut. Michael McFadden, Army ordnance experts, deactivating the bomb found outside the Mexican consulate in Newark yesterday.

United Press International

James J. Manning, laboratory director, said Tuesday, but they offered indications that this might be so.

The laboratory continued tests of the components of the device that two bomb squad members took apart at the tourist office in Rockefeller Center two minutes before it was set to explode.

The materials — putty-like plastic explosive, a dynamite detonating cap, a 1.5-volt dry cell battery and a clock — were "commonplace" and were available from a vast number

of sources, Dr. Manning said.

When Detectives Andrew T. Sweeney and James G. Dooley first looked at the bomb, it was set to explode in two minutes. The device had the explosive power of four sticks of dynamite. The laboratory tests indicated that the explosion would have killed anyone within 20 feet and that shrapnel from the blast would have been fatal for 100 feet or so.

#### State Department Concerned

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WASHINGTON, July 16 — State Department officials expressed concern today about the series of bombings or attempted bombings of foreign tourist and diplomatic offices in the New York City area.

The officials said, however, that no protests have been received from any of the foreign governments whose facilities have been involved.

Justice Department officials said their department had been keeping abreast of the incidents. A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that the F.B.I. had not been asked to join in the investigation.

"Our facilities are available to local authorities if needed," a F.B.I. spokesman said.