

Big Bomb Blast At Indian Office

By Michael Grieg

An explosion ripped through the first floor of the Alameda offices of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs early yesterday and caused an estimated \$50,000 damage to the two-story frame structure.

The 5:20 a.m. blast, which occurred shortly before an anonymous woman caller told The Chronicle that a terrorist group would bomb the Bureau, was so strong that it sent two office safes crashing to the basement at 620 Central avenue in Alameda.

No injuries were reported in the deserted offices when the blast went off in an area where bureau cashiers dispense checks to clients going to school for vocational training.

The office, the bureau's only one in the Bay Area, "administers to the job placement and training needs of Indians coming to the metropolitan area from reservations," area director Bill Finale said.

Charles Bates, the FBI's special agent in charge here, said investigators were checking any possible link with the fatal shooting Thursday of two FBI agents

on a South Dakota reservation.

The investigation centered on the 5:30 a.m. call, ten minutes after the explosion, in which a woman told a Chronicle operator that "the New World Liberation is going to bomb the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

"She spoke clearly and calmly," said the operator who promptly called the FBI and Alameda police.

Her voice, the operator said, had no particular accent.

FBI agents and police found shattered windows, a ruptured boiler, broken furniture and extensive ceiling and structural damage. Debris was blown 40 yards.

Bates said an investigation showed that the explosive device, which "could have been something on the order of several sticks of dynamite," had been placed in a ventilation air space under the floor of the old building.

Similarities with earlier bombings for which the New World Liberation Front claims responsibility were being examined. The terrorist group has claimed responsibility for bombs set off at the brokerage offices of Dean Witter & Co. in Maritime Plaza, Standard Oil Co. of California and a women's restroom in the lobby of Sheraton-Palace Hotel. An unexploded bomb, also linked to the group, has been found at General Motors Corp. offices in Burlingame.

Early last month, a bomb damaged a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. office building in Berkeley. A young woman called The Chronicle and said the group was responsible.

Other bombing claimed by the group include a May 2 explosion at a state parole office in Sacramento and a May 19 blast at a San Quentin prison building.

At a late afternoon press conference yesterday, a spokesman for the Bay Area branch of the American Indian Movement (AIM) said the organization "was not prepared to make a statement (about the Alameda explosion) until we get all the facts."

"Our main concern is with the death of Little Joe Killright (also known as Joe Robert, the Indian victim in the South Dakota reservation slayings) and the 29 other Indians who have been murdered this year," the representative said.

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Bomb Blast
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At Mt.

Rushmore

Keystone, S.D.

A bomb ripped the mountain silence surrounding Mt. Rushmore National Monument early yesterday, causing extensive damage to windows in the visitors' center.

Harvey Wickware, Mt. Rushmore superintendent, said the bomb exploded about 4 a.m., about two hours before tourists begin their daily pilgrimage to view the stone heads of four former presidents.

Wickware said the bomb was of undetermined size and composition. He added that the monument would be open for business as usual but with security doubled.

Officials declined to comment on whether the explosion may have been connected with Thursday's outbreak of violence on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation,

United Press