

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STANFORD —

Shortly before 4 a.m. Friday, an explosive device with a timer exploded in the attic of the President's Office building at Stanford University, causing moderate damage.

Campus security guard George Curry, on the second floor no more than 30 feet away when the device exploded, said "I haven't heard anything like this since Korea." His ears still were ringing an hour later, he said, but he was not otherwise injured.

The device punched a two-foot diameter hole in the ceiling near two second-floor offices occupied by legal advisers to the president. Several pieces of red tile roof were knocked to the ground, and many others were damaged.

Following a very preliminary check, physical plant officials said damage "very likely" will exceed \$25,000. Daylight was not visible through the roof but structural damage inside the attic appeared substantial.

Police confirmed that C-4, a plastic explosive, was used. Only part of the explosive put in the attic actually was detonated. A military explosive, C-4 is not available through commercial channels.

The explosion scattered plaster and debris over a 20-foot radius on the second floor, but employees were admitted to the building on arrival for work. The personal office of President Richard W. Lyman is located on the first floor.

Commenting on the incident, President Lyman said: "Naturally I am angry at this senseless act. Everything possible is being done to find out who did it. We need the cooperation and help of all at Stanford to bring to end such harassing attacks upon the University."

FBI agents took charge of the investigation by 5:30 a.m., acting under the Omnibus Crime Bill (Title 18, Sec. 844F) passed by Congress last year. This gives the FBI authority to investigate any damage or attacks involving explosives at institutions receiving federal financial assistance.

During a search of the inter-connected attics on Inner Quadrangle late Friday morning, agents found a knapsack in an attic above the English Department, located across the Quad from the President's Office.

When a bomb specialist from the campus fire department opened the knapsack, he found six gasoline-filled soft drink bottles stored inside. They were plugged with newspapers dated April 19 and 21. There were no fusing devices.

At 11:22 p.m. Thursday five bullets were fired at a PG&E transformer compound near the Women's Gym. Two bullets penetrated two transformers, causing an oil leak. Students informed police and firemen, who stopped the leak. Had the leaking continued, a mild explosion might have taken place, firemen said.

About half an hour before the explosion in the President's Office, *Stanford Daily* and KZSU reporters reported seeing two persons, possibly female, running past the office. They were believed to be involved with the placing of revolutionary posters in many places on the campus during the night, and an attempt had been made to paste one on the office door.

At 3:35 p.m. Thursday afternoon Palo Alto police received an anonymous call from a male voice saying "a bomb will go off in 30 minutes in the Stanford area." The bomb in the president's office building exploded at 3:54 a.m. Friday, about 12 hours later.

It was not immediately known whether either the call or the posters were directly linked to the incident. For months the building has been guarded on a round-the-clock basis after normal working hours.

The two-story structure, located in Inner Quad, sustained more than \$100,000 damage in an arson-caused fire July 5, 1968.

The posters protested "an undeclared, racist and aggressive war" and charged that Stanford has placed the "welfare and life of the Stanford professor above that of the Stanford worker."

"The power to build a humane and just society lies within the people," the poster added. "Support the workers, Power to the righteous."