

L.A. blast rips U.N. bookstore; caller relates incident to PLO

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — A bomb explosion damaged the United Nations Association book store and information center early Sunday. A caller later told a newspaper and a radio station the blast was related to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Police said the bomb went off shortly before 3 a.m. at the book store in the Wilshire district and caused about \$5,000 damage to the store. It also blew out plate glass windows in three nearby businesses.

Investigators said a young male caller telephoned the Los Angeles Times switchboard and radio station KFVB, an all news station, but they were not able to interpret whether the bombing was a warning to, or from, the PLO.

There were no injuries in the blast, police said. The area was virtually deserted at the time.

In each instance, the caller signed off with the words, "never again," a slogan used in the past by the Jewish Defense League.

One police source said the blast had the intensity of from 15 to 20 sticks of dynamite, but officers could not immediately determine the type of explosive.

Some bomb fragments were recovered from the store.

Shortly after the blast, the Los Angeles Times switchboard received a call from a man who said: "The United Nations office at 3722 W. 8th St. (the wrong address) was hit and it is a thank you message from the PLO. The message is for letting them address the United Nations . . . never again."

The correct address, 3522 W. 8th St., is

two blocks away.

Minutes after that call, Melissa Townsend, news assistant at KFVB, received a call from a man who said there had been a bombing at the UN store and it was a "thank you note from the PLO to the UN. Never again."

The explosion caused structural damage to the store and damage to furniture inside. It also blew out the front windows of a cafe and two nearby stores.

There was no warning before the bombing, police said.

74 sugar crop below estimate

by Cheryl Arvidson
United Press International

WASHINGTON—With sugar prices already soaring, the Agriculture Department reported Sunday that the 1974-75 worldwide crop has fallen about 2 million tons below estimates and will barely meet estimated demand.

Department experts predicted the new sugar crop would reach 81.1 million metric tons, compared with current consumption estimates of 81 million tons.

The report comes at a time when sugar prices are hitting record levels almost daily. The government has announced it will investigate sugar prices and the margins of major domestic suppliers.

According to the new forecasts, beet sugar production was expected to be down about 1.4 million tons from 1973-74 levels. Cane sugar output, however, should rise by about 2 million tons, leaving a net increase of 600,000 tons—only 1 per cent—over last year's record crop.

The Agriculture Department's Foreign Agricultural Service said world sugar consumption should also set a new record this year, but high prices will slow the rate of increase.

Although consumption estimates are about 2 per cent higher than in 1974, experts said there is already some evidence of per capita reductions in sugar consumption in the United States, some Western European nations and Japan.

The report said Brazil, South Africa, Australia and Poland will have larger crops during the current production year. Cuba's production will also be somewhat larger, although the crop has been affected by adverse weather conditions.



A woman proprietor tries to salvage some of the reading material from the rubble following an explosion in the U.N. bookstore in Los Angeles. An anonymous caller to a local newspaper and radio station later tied the incident to the PLO. Damage is estimated at \$5,000.

Butz signs Egyptian agreement pledging additional U.S. wheat

by Michael S. Barrett
United Press International

CAIRO — Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz signed a \$36.5 million agreement with the Egyptian government Sunday under which the United States will ship Egypt 200,000 tons of wheat or wheat flour during the coming year in addition to 100,000 tons of grain already pledged.

The shipments will be paid for in Egyptian currency that in turn will be slated for U.S. foreign aid projects.

"In the years ahead, food productive capacity must be built up in the developing nations," Butz told newsmen at the

ceremony. "This is the real opportunity to increase the productive capacity of the world."

He said, "We have only a limited supply of aid. The world has only a limited supply of aid. We have a limited supply of foodstuffs right now. I think all of us must be very careful to be sure every ton reaches the area of real need."

Butz told Egyptian Foreign Trade Minister Fathi Ahmed Matbuli, who signed the agreement for Egypt, that the United States wanted to extend short supplies of wheat in the critical world needs between now and next June and July when ample

supplies again become available.

"Hopefully after eight months the supply situation will ease," he said. "There is a genuine commitment in the United States, in my own Department of Agriculture and by our farmers to do the very best we can in the months ahead."

He said fertilizer production would help solve the food crisis and plants were under construction in Arab oil-producing countries, in the United States and elsewhere to siphon off wasted natural gas to reduce nitrogen by 1976, adding that two other fertilizer-producing elements, potash and phosphate, were in ample supply.

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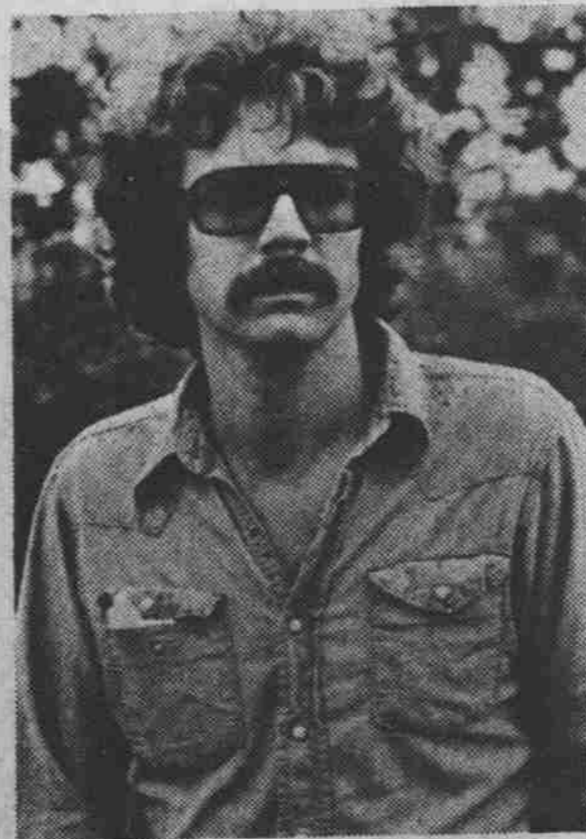
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