Embassy targeted in Lisbon car bombing

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — A car bomb exploded Tuesday night on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy, sparking a smoky fire in the garden and flames a story high. Embassy guards and other witnesses said there were no injuries.

A Portuguese security guard employed by the Embassy to check all vehicles entering the area said a man drove into the compound; jumped from the car and ran out the gates in a matter of seconds.

"I realized there was a bomb, in the car, so I backed off," said the guard, who did not give his name.

The burning car was about 20 feet inside the compound gates; and there was no apparent damage to the guardhouse some to feet from the vehicle, or to other cars parked nearby.

The Embassy building itself, a brick and concrete structure formally dedicated last year was more than 100 yards away.

and was apparently untouched by the blast.

The U.S. Embassy, which is headed by former U.S. Information Agency Director Frank Shakespeare, is on the northern outskirts of Lisbon. Under construction for more than four years, it replaced a downtown apartment building that was considered a security risk.

The new structure was reported to have been built with such strict security standards that window panes were thick enough to prevent potential spies with telescopes in a near by hoter from taking long lens photographs of documents on embassy diplomats desks.

It was the third time in two years that the new embassy had been the target of an attack. In the first of the other two attempts, a bazooka shot was fired at the embassy walls. In the second, a passing car sprayed the walls of the heavily guarded compound with bullets.

Reagan pushes rebel aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, saying Nicaraguan rebels cannot fight the Sandinista government with Band Aids and mosquito nets, opened a campaign Tuesday for \$100 million in aid to the Contras

In a meeting with top Republican congressional leaders: Reagan belittled the \$27 million in humanitarian aid approved for the rebels known as Contras, and urged an end to restrictions on military support.

Although the president said that the humanitarian assistance has helped maintain the pressure of resistance to the Sandinistas, he added that "more effective" aid is necessary.

You can't fight attack helicopters piloted by Cubans with Band-Aids and mosquito nets, Reagan said in a statement read to the lawmakers.

Congress in 1984 banned military aid or ammunition for the Contras and required that the money approved be used exclusively for medical supplies, clothing and transport trucks. From the end of 1981 until the spring of 1984, the United States provided about \$80 million in covert aid.

Reagan repeatedly has asserted that the Sandinista leadership is fomenting revolution and communism in Central America, backed by Cuba, the Soviet Union, Libya and North Korea.

Manuel Cordero, ministercounseler of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington, termed Reagan's decision to seek a resumption in military aid "a slap in the face" to eight Latin American nations that have urged the United States to back peace talks in the region.

During his remarks on Nicaraguan aid, Reagan was flanked by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., and House Minority Leader Robert H. Michel, R-Ill.

After the session, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said Reagan had called for \$70 million in military assistance and \$30 million in logistical and other non-lethal aid.

"I think it's a good program," Lugar told reporters.

"We have to decide whether we are going to have a Soviet base on this continent or not," he said. "Essentially we are going to have one if the Contras are not successful."



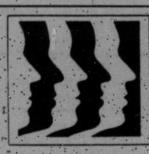


Legislators question guard training

PORTLAND (AP) — Three state legislators who visited an Oregon National Guard unit training in Honduras said Tuesday the Reagan administration is using those troops to intimidate Nicaragua.

"We question the use of National Guard units as part of a Reagan administration policy of intimidation in Central America." said Rep. Mike Burton. D-Portland. Burton said U.S. Army Col. William Comee told the Oregon legislators the National Guard training in Honduras was intended to "intimidate and harass" Nicaragua.

Comee commands Joint Task Force Bravo at Palmerola Air Base in Honduras. Burton said the task force organizes combined training exercises with U.S. and Honduran military units.



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