

Rocket-propelled grenade hits U.S. Embassy

No one was injured in the attack and no one immediately claimed responsibility.

MOSCOW (AP) — A masked attacker fired a rocket-propelled grenade that pierced the thick brick wall of the U.S. Embassy and exploded in an empty office Wednesday. No one was injured in the daring mid-afternoon attack that came at a time of rising anti-American sentiment. There was no claim of responsibility, and officials said there was no clear link to growing Russian criticism of NATO strikes on Bosnian Serbs. Russian and U.S. spokesmen insisted the attack was an isolated incident.

"It's the act of a lone maniac," said a senior Russian security official at the scene, speaking on condition of anonymity. The grenade was fired at 2:55 p.m. from the opposite side of the busy Garden Ring road, crossing 12 lanes of rush-hour traffic. It punched through the facade of the mustard-and-white 10-story building on the sixth floor, sending thick smoke swirling. The blast broke two windows and gouged out brick and plaster, leaving a hole and scorching the wall. There were no reports of arrested suspects, but the Interfax news agency quoted security officials as saying they had a composite sketch of the attacker, a tall, young man in jeans.

Embassy spokesman Richard Hoagland called the attack "an isolated act" and said it "will have no impact on the Russian-American relations." In Washington, the State Department said President Clinton was briefed on the attack, which came just a day after the Kremlin accused NATO of genocide against the Bosnian Serbs, Russia's historic allies.

It also came on the eve of a visit to Moscow by Deputy Secretary Strobe Talbott, charged with trying to heal the widening rift between Washington and Moscow. Hoagland said the grenade exploded inside a large photocopying machine, which absorbed most of the shock. The small room was empty at the time, he said.

"There were no warning calls," Hoagland said. "As of now, no one has claimed responsibility." A spent grenade launcher, a black ski mask and a glove were found across the ring road, Hoagland said. Police said the launcher was lying inside an archway leading to a tree-covered courtyard that may have been the escape route. Some Russian media reports said the attacker escaped in a waiting car.

Glass, shrapnel and what looked like the rocket-propelled grenade's tail littered the pavement outside the embassy. "Most likely it was an anti-tank grenade," said Moscow

Civil Defense commander Col. Ivan Chigogidze.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said someone was using the copy machine five minutes before the explosion.

"They could have been killed," he said.

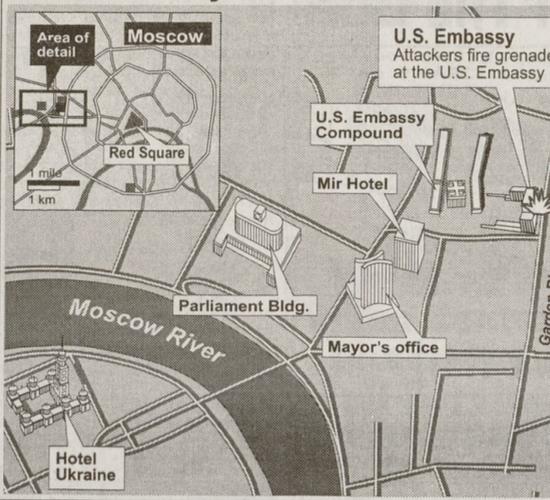
Interior Ministry commandos, police and embassy guards cordoned off the area. The embassy's Marine guards, armed with automatic rifles and ma-

chine guns, stood guard. Bomb-sniffing police dogs were also on the scene.

All but essential personnel were evacuated, but the modern annex behind the embassy's main building remained open.

Rush-hour traffic continued to crawl along the broad boulevard in front of the embassy as crowds of onlookers gathered on sidewalks. One elderly woman asked police officers if she, too, was in danger.

U.S. Embassy in Moscow attacked



Associated Press

PUBLIC NOTICE BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS SPECIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 7, 1995

PROPOSITION NO. 1 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 50 proposes a constitutional amendment providing that the legislature by general law may authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue general obligation bonds of the state in an amount not exceeding \$300 million to finance educational loans to students. The maximum interest rate to be borne by the bonds must be set by law. The legislature may provide for the investment of bond proceeds and may establish an interest and sinking fund to pay the bonds.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:
"The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of \$300 million in general obligation bonds to finance education loans to students."

PROPOSITION NO. 2 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 36 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation the property of an organization chartered by the Congress of the Republic of Texas if the property is used primarily for the charitable, benevolent, or public service activities of the organization as defined by general law. The Comptroller's Property Tax Division has identified the Grand Lodge of Texas, also known as the Masonic Lodges, as the primary organization which would qualify for this tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property of an organization chartered by the Congress of the Republic of Texas that is used primarily for the charitable, benevolent, or public service activities of the organization."

PROPOSITION NO. 3 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 51 proposes a constitutional amendment that provides that the farm and ranch finance program fund shall be administered by the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority and not by the Veterans' Land Board, as provided by current law. In addition, the proposed amendment provides that the proceeds of \$200 million of the \$500 million in bonds authorized by the Texas Constitution for the farm and ranch finance program fund may be diverted to the agricultural fund and the rural micro-enterprise development fund, also authorized by the Texas Constitution, to be used for agricultural and rural economic development programs.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment allowing the use of existing bond authority of the farm and ranch finance program to include financial assistance for the expansion, development, and diversification of production, processing, marketing, and export of Texas agricultural products."

PROPOSITION NO. 4 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 46 proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow an encumbrance to be fixed on homestead property for an owelty of partition. In divorce and probate situations, a piece of property may be owned jointly by two

or more people, and each person owns an undivided interest in the property, as opposed to a specific portion of the property. If one owner wishes to purchase the other person's interest in the property and wishes to obtain a loan to finance the purchase, the lending institution requires all interests in the property to be used as security for the loan; this is called an owelty of partition. Senate Joint Resolution 46 would allow the lending institution to foreclose on the homestead property for an owelty of partition if the purchaser defaulted on the loan. In addition, the proposed amendment would allow the refinancing of a lien against a homestead. Finally, the proposed amendment would allow a purchaser or lender to rely on an affidavit that states that the property to be conveyed or encumbered is not the homestead of the affiant.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment permitting an encumbrance to be fixed on homestead property for an owelty of partition, including a debt of a spouse resulting from a division or award of a homestead in a divorce proceeding, and for the refinancing of a lien against a homestead, including a federal tax lien resulting from the tax debt of the owner."

PROPOSITION NO. 5 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 34 proposes a constitutional amendment which would increase by \$500 million the constitutional authorization of the Veterans' Land Board to issue and sell general obligation bonds of the state to provide housing financing to Texas veterans. The proceeds from the bonds authorized by this amendment shall be used to augment the Veterans' Housing Assistance Fund II to be administered and invested as provided by law. The bonds authorized by this amendment shall be incontestable after execution by the Veterans' Land Board, approval by the attorney general, and delivery to the purchaser.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to increase by \$500 million the amount of general obligation bonds that may be issued to augment the veterans' housing assistance fund II."

PROPOSITION NO. 6 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 64 proposes a constitutional amendment which would extend the tax exemption under article VIII, section 1-b(b) of the Texas Constitution for the residence homestead of a person age 65 or older to the surviving spouse of a person who received the exemption. The surviving spouse must be age 55 or older when the deceased spouse died, and the property must be the residence homestead of the surviving spouse when the deceased spouse died and remain the surviving spouse's residence homestead. A surviving spouse who already receives an exemption under this section of the Texas Constitution is not entitled to an additional exemption under the amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment exempting from ad valorem taxation the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of an elderly person."

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PROPOSITION NO. 7 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 73 proposes a constitutional amendment that would reduce the amount of general obligation bonds authorized for the superconducting super collider fund from \$500 million to \$250 million.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment reducing the amount of general obligation bonds authorized for undertakings related to the superconducting super collider research facility from \$500 million to \$250 million."

PROPOSITION NO. 8 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 80 proposes a constitutional amendment abolishing the office of constable in Mills, Reagan, and Roberts counties. In Mills County, the office of constable is abolished, and the powers, duties, and records of the office are transferred to the sheriff. In Reagan and Roberts counties, the office of constable is abolished and the powers, duties, and records of the office are transferred to the sheriff only if a majority of voters in each of the respective counties favors the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of constable in Mills, Reagan, and Roberts counties."

PROPOSITION NO. 9 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 7 proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow investment of money from the Texas growth fund in a business without the business's disclosure of its investments in or with South Africa or Namibia. Currently, such investments are prohibited by article XVI, section 70(r) of the Texas Constitution, which would be repealed.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment allowing investment of money from the Texas growth fund in a business without the business's disclosure of its investments in or with South Africa or Namibia."

PROPOSITION NO. 10 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 1 proposes a constitutional amendment that would abolish the constitutional office of state treasurer effective September 1, 1996. The transfer of specific constitutional powers and duties to the comptroller of public accounts takes effect on that date. The statutory powers and duties and the property and other obligations of the state treasurer are transferred to officers and agencies of state government as the legislature provides by general law.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment abolishing the office of state treasurer."

PROPOSITION NO. 11 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 72 proposes a constitutional amendment requiring that land devoted to wildlife management be taxed on the basis of its productive capacity. The proposed amendment also adds a temporary provision to the Texas Constitution validating the changes to the law made by Chapter 560, Acts of the 72nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1991, which amended the Tax Code to allow land used for wildlife management to be appraised as agricultural land. The temporary provision also provides that a property owner is not authorized to claim a refund of taxes paid unless the tax payment was challenged before the effective date of the proposed amendment. The temporary provision expires on January 1, 1998.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to allow open-space land used for wildlife management to qualify for tax appraisal in the same manner as open-space agricultural land, subject to eligibility limitations provided by the legislature."

PROPOSITION NO. 12 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 31 proposes a constitutional amendment providing that the legislature may exempt from ad valorem taxation income-producing personal property and mineral interests that have a taxable value which is insufficient to recover the costs of administering the tax.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation personal property and mineral interests having a value insufficient to recover the administrative costs of collecting the taxes."

PROPOSITION NO. 13 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution No. 35 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the governing body of a political subdivision to exempt from ad valorem taxation boats and other equipment used primarily in the commercial taking or production of fish, shrimp, shellfish, and other marine life.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the governing body of a political subdivision to exempt from ad valorem taxation boats and other equipment used primarily in the commercial taking or production of fish, shrimp, shellfish, and other marine life."

PROPOSITION NO. 14 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 68 proposes a constitutional amendment that allows the legislature to raise the current ad valorem tax exemption for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and minor children. The tax exemptions would be raised based on a veteran's disability rating as follows:

Disability	Maximum Tax Exemption
10% - 30%	\$ 5,000
30% - 50%	\$ 7,500
50% - 70%	\$10,000
More than 70%	\$12,000
Age 65 and 10% or higher	\$12,000
Loss or loss of use of limb	\$12,000
Blindness or paraplegia	\$12,000

The spouse and children of any veteran who dies while on active duty may be granted an exemption of up to \$5,000. The amounts of the exemptions provided for in this proposed amendment may be repealed by the legislature by general law.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment relating to raising the limits of the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by disabled veterans or by the surviving spouses or surviving minor children of disabled veterans."

Este es el informe explicatorio sobre la enmienda propuesta a la constitución que aparecerá en la boleta el día 7 de noviembre de 1995. Si usted no ha recibido una copia del informe en español, podrá obtener una gratis por llamar al 1/800/252/8683 a por escribir al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711

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Tony Garza

AWARD

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students by using computers in labs. Before, students used maps in the classes, instead of the computers that upper-level undergraduate and graduate students used.

Using the computers helped prepare the students for what they would use in the field, North said.

North stressed the importance of A&M recruiting young

GRADUATION

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"I think if you look at any research on minority students, that research talks about alienation," Carreathers said.

Although he would like to see higher rates for minority students, Carreathers said A&M's rates shouldn't be considered negative.

"Statewide, I think we're doing fairly well, and nationally, we are too," he said.

Catherine Toler, assistant director of the Center for Academic Enhancement, said the center does not have any programs directly aimed at increasing graduation rates.

The center tests students to see what they have learned in high school and determine which classes the students should take.

RHA

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the first time at an RHA meeting by Wesley Poston, a freshman journalism major.

"We're trying to get more involved, especially with Bonfire," Poston said.

The RHA also began consid-

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