

News Digest

By the Associated Press Edited by Victoria Ayotte

Truck bomb kills 35 in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia -- A truck bomb containing half a ton of dynamite exploded outside secret police headquarters during the morning rush hour Wednesday, killing at least 35 people and wounding hundreds.

The bomb, presumably the work of drug gangs, was the most powerful to strike the capital since Colombia's cocaine traffickers began a wave of terror after the government declared war on them 16 weeks ago.

A spokesman for President Virgilio Barco said the bombing might be the start of a new campaign of mass killings by the drug traffickers, but that the government would fight on.

The blast, which tore open a crater 20 feet deep and destroyed or heavily damaged a score of buildings, occurred less than 24 hours after government investigators said a bomb caused the crash of a Colombian jetliner last month that killed 107 people.

'The slaughter that we warned of when the House approved extradition in the plebiscite has started.'

--Minister Simmonds

No one claimed responsibility directly for Wednesday's explosion, but Gen. Faruk Yanine, Bogota police chief, said it was undoubtedly the work of drug traffickers.

A statement from the so-called Extraditables delivered to newspapers and radio stations in Medellin, base of the most powerful drug cartel, said: "We will stop the war only when the Senate understands the people must be our judge."

The reference was to a bill that would permit a national referendum on extraditing drug trafficking suspects wanted in the United States. The House of Representatives approved it Tuesday night.

Barco's government opposes the measure, contending the drug barons would step up terrorism before a referendum to frighten voters into rejecting extradition.

In their statement, the Extraditables said: "The president should not fear what the congress decides, because the congress is the voice of the people, and the voice of the people is the voice of God."

Minister of Government Carlos Lemos Simmonds told reporters after the bombing: "The slaughter that we warned of when the House approved extradition in the plebiscite has started." He is acting president while President Virgilio Barco is on a state visit to Japan.

The bomb went off at 7:30 a.m. in an area crowded with people bound for work on foot and in cars.

So powerful was the explosion that it broke windows in a building across the street from the U.S. Embassy seven miles away. The broadcast network Caracol quoted sources with explosives experts at the scene as saying the truck was packed with 1,100 pounds of dynamite.

Reports on the number of dead and wounded varied, and rescuers were pulling bodies from the rubble of buildings hours after the blast.

Health Minister Eduardo Diaz said in an interview with Caracol that at least 35 people were killed, 250 seriously wounded and 750 treated for cuts, abrasions and shock.

Unconfirmed reports gave higher

death tolls.

The explosion blew the facade off the secret police headquarters and destroyed virtually all its walls and windows. Also heavily damaged were an office building for federal judges across the street and the national transit police headquarters a block away.

Half a dozen stores across the street from secret police headquarters were reduced to smoking rubble and about 60 cars were destroyed.

Visa renewal is one function of the secret police, or Department of Administrative Security. Many foreigners usually are there on any given weekday, but it was not known

whether foreigners were among the dead and wounded.

This is a busy season because many foreigners go home for Christmas, and cannot do so without reports of clean police records.

Minutes after the explosion, detectives at secret police headquarters scrambled up ladders and, from the remains of cells, pulled two stunned prisoners awaiting extradition to the United States. The prisoners were taken away in an armored vehicle.

Lemos said on Caracol the bombing illustrated the futility of trying to negotiate with the drug gangs. He said the government would not lessen its resolve to crush them.

Star Light, Star Bright,
3 cookies for \$1 tonight.

Thursday nights
8 p.m.-10 p.m.

DO-BIZ!
120 No. 14th
474-6158

Santa's Sleigh

Where \$20 can buy gifts for everyone on your list!

Store Hours
10 - 9 Mon. - Sat.
12 - 6 Sunday

48th & O
South of Super Saver
464-0693

"Abortion Services with real sensitivity... you really helped me!"

- Free Pregnancy Testing
- Professional Counseling & Referrals
- Abortions Procedures to 20 weeks
- Speakers' Bureau
- Routine Gyn Care
- Visa, MasterCard and Some Insurance Plans Accepted
- Anesthesia Available
- Certified Surgeon

WOMEN'S MEDICAL CENTER OF NEBRASKA

4930 "L" Street
Omaha, NE 68117

(402) 734-7500
(800)228-5342
toll free outside NE

Fashion Company

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE!

HOLIDAY SWEATER SPECTACULAR
ALL SWEATERS!! **25%-50%**
Off Comparable Prices

THRU SUNDAY ONLY!

FORENZA
OVERSIZED CARDIGANS NOW \$19.99
V-Neck or Double Breasted
COMPARE AT \$38 SAVE 45%!

OUTBACK • RED SPLIT-NECK TEES
Long Sleeve, One Pocket, Shoulder Pads
COMPARE AT \$22 **\$14.99**

D.B. Sport
Fleece JOGGING SEPARATES NOW \$9.99
Mix & Match SAVE OVER 50%!
COMPARE AT \$21 Each Piece

ONE-STEP-UP
COTTON LEGGINGS NOW \$6.99
Fantastic Buy! Hurry!
SAVE 50%!
COMPARE AT \$14

DESIGNER AND NAME BRAND FASHIONS FOR LESS!!

Fashion Company

EAST LINCOLN
66th & Q St.
(Across from Chi-Chi's)
HOURS:
Mon.-Fri. 10 am-9 pm
Saturday 10 am-9 pm
Sunday Noon-5:30 pm

SOUTH LINCOLN
So. 48th & Hwy. 2
(Briarhurst Center)
HOURS:
Mon.-Fri. 10 am-9 pm
Saturday 10 am-6:30 pm
Sunday Noon-5:30 pm

Remember family or friends with Special Occasion, Get Well or Memorial cards.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

American Heart Association
Nebraska Affiliate

Successful Graduates are our Greatest Success!

Look at the facts:

97% of last year's graduates who were available for employment are now working in training-related jobs.

96% of last year's graduates are employed in Nebraska.

703 students graduated from SCC/ Lincoln during 1988-89

You can be a part of our success!

Available Career Programs

Automotive	Food Service Management	Printing
Business Administration	Human Services	Radiologic Technology
Child Development Services	Machine Tool Technology	Respiratory Care
Dental Assisting	Medical Assisting	Secretarial
Dietetic Technology	Medical Laboratory Tech	Surgical Technology
Drafting	Microcomputer Applications	Truck Driving - Professional
Electronics	Motorcycle/Small Engine	Welding
Environmental Lab Tech	Nursing	Word Processing
Fashion Merchandising	Associate Degree (RN)	
Fire Protection	Practical (LPN)	

Contact the Admissions Office - Lincoln Campus, Southeast Community College, (402) 471-3333

Our representative will be in the Nebraska Student Union on **Friday, December 8, 9 am - 4 pm**

Southeast community college Lincoln Campus 8800 "O" St.