

# Letter bombs force U.N. evacuation

By ROBERT H. REID  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Two letter bombs discovered at U.N. headquarters Monday forced the evacuation of scores of people.

Authorities said at least one of the bombs was addressed to the U.N. bureau of an Arabic-language newspaper.

Earlier Monday, a bomb exploded at the London headquarters of the same newspaper, Al-Hayat. It injured two mail clerks, one seriously. Police blew up two other suspicious packages.

Both bombs at the U.N. were contained in greeting card-sized envelopes, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said. One addressed to the newspaper was found about 11 a.m., about 15 minutes before it would have been delivered to the newspaper's offices.

U.N. security guards started inspecting all the mail, and discovered the second bomb later in the basement mail room.

After the first discovery, guards evacuated the second and third floors of the 38-story U.N. headquarters, along the East River in Manhattan, and summoned the New York City bomb squad. The basement mail room and delivery area were evacuated after the second discovery.

"The past pattern is that these things come in groups, so we will be looking for at least a third one," Eckhard said. He did not say whether the second letter was also addressed to Al-Hayat.

The Al-Hayat's U.N. correspondent, Raghida Dergham, said she alerted U.N. authorities to screen her mail carefully after hearing of the London explosion.

"We at Al-Hayat really don't know who is behind this," Dergham, president of the U.N. Correspondents Association, added. "There are no indications to suspect any particular party."

Khairallah Khairallah, managing editor of Al-Hayat in London, also was perplexed.

"We don't see any reason why this is happening," he said. The newspaper is owned by members of the Saudi royal family, however, and unrest has increased in recent months in the kingdom.

Eckhard said the incident may have been the first time a live bomb had been received at the United Nations.

# Mother Teresa will step down

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Mother Teresa reportedly will step down as head of The Missionaries of Charity, an order she founded 47 years ago.

Henry D'Souza, Calcutta's archbishop, made the announcement Monday after a long-time friend said Mother Teresa confided last month that she wanted to retire because of health problems.

Mother Teresa has led the order since founding it in 1950. She tried to step down in 1990, but the other nuns re-elected her anyway. The friend, Sunita Kumar, said Mother Teresa believes her followers will yield to her wishes this time.

A vote for mother superior will be held Feb. 2, D'Souza said.

Mother Teresa continued to suffer pain in her spine Monday stemming from arthritis and osteoporosis. Dr. Devi Shetty said the pain was not a cause for concern, and is not unusual for someone of Mother Teresa's age. The 86-year-old nun's heart, lungs and kidneys were functioning well, he said.



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