

ARTICLE APPEARED  
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8 August 1983**JACK ANDERSON****CIA Discovers  
Terrorists Have  
'Invisible Bomb'**

A hair-raising new development has occurred in the subterranean world of international terrorism. The CIA has learned of the invention of an "invisible bomb"—a secret, sophisticated explosive undetectable by standard bomb-searching techniques. At least a dozen are believed to be in the hands of terrorists.

The disturbing details are known only to a few western intelligence agencies. Sources with access to top-secret CIA files on the "invisible bomb" told my associate Dale Van Atta how it was detected.

Last spring, an Arab courier visited a Geneva hotel that is partly owned by Jewish interests, but that is also frequented by Arabs. He left behind a portable radio and an innocent-looking suitcase.

But at the last minute, the courier, who was linked to a radical Palestinian guerrilla group, got cold feet. He contacted U.S. officials and was steered to the CIA. The terrorist warned that he had left a bomb in the hotel.

Though the CIA officials were skeptical, they notified the Swiss authorities, who sent a bomb squad

to the hotel. The suitcase and radio were picked up.

The Swiss reported back to the CIA that the two items had been sniffed repeatedly by their bomb-detecting dogs and there was no explosive in either. The tip must be a hoax.

The CIA's turncoat Arab source was questioned again. He insisted the suitcase was a bomb. With some reluctance, the CIA asked the Swiss to check again.

They did. This time they discovered that the Arab courier was right. The suitcase was a powerful bomb.

"It scared the --- out of the Swiss," one source said. "It was so sophisticated that no one ever found one before."

The explosive was molded into the cardboard of the suitcase. Though the material did have a distinctive smell, it was not any that bomb dogs are trained to detect.

The explosive power of the suitcase material was judged to be greater than C-4, the "plastique" that is a favorite of terrorist groups. One source said the Geneva hotel bomb packed enough wallop to blow up a seven-story building.

With new respect, the CIA gave their Arab tipster an extensive interrogation. They learned that the bomb maker was an Arab who was living in Baghdad and had made at least a dozen of his "invisible bombs." Some sources thought it

possible that one of them was used for the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

The potential of this new terrorist weapon is so alarming, my sources said, that none of the western intelligence agencies privy to the secret raised objections when one agency set out to find the bomb maker and eliminate him and his lethal products "with extreme prejudice."