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News Release

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January 30, 1975
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Security Stepped Up

In Federal Buildings

The head of the U.S. General Services Administration today ordered tightened security around the nation's federal buildings.

Administrator Arthur F. Sampson directed the extra precautions in the wake of a new wave of bombings and bomb threats reminiscent of the early 1970s.

"We regret these steps are necessary, because it may bring some temporary inconveniences to federal employes," Sampson said, "but our overriding concern is for the safety of these employes and the public."

The most stringent measures are being taken in the nation's capital and in GSA Region 9, which includes California. An early morning bomb blast in the State Department here Wednesday caused an estimated \$350,000 damage; and an undetonated explosive device was safely removed from a federal office building in Oakland.

"We are fortunate that no one was injured or killed in either of these incidents," Sampson said. He listed these steps to be taken to increase security:

--entrances to federal buildings will be locked, except those manned by a GSA Federal Protective Service officer;

--packages being carried into buildings will be examined unless the bearer has an approved identification badge;

--patrols of buildings and parking areas will be increased.

Further, Sampson said, all agencies nationwide are being urged to make sure their facilities self-protection plans are up to date. These plans exist in every federal building and provide detailed instructions on the handling of emergencies.

In regions less sensitive than Washington, D. C. and California, these plans will allow federal officials to take whatever steps are necessary to meet any contingencies.

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