

■ Calm returns to Willowbrook after massive emergency response and evacuation of 900 students and residents of 120 homes

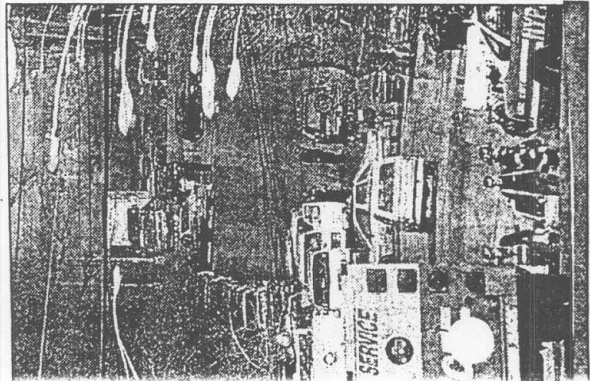
By PAUL MCPOLIN and CHARLIE GOULD
ADVANCE STAFF WRITERS

No one has claimed responsibility for a "low-tech" bomb that forced the evacuation of 120 homes, an elementary school and a temple in Willowbrook yesterday, police said.

Explosives technicians examining the crude bomb said the device had "two clicks" left on its timer, and that a timer malfunction apparently kept it from detonating.

The device was about the size of a soda can. It was wrapped in heavy black tape, with wires connected to a white kitchen timer and a nine-volt battery. It was found at the corner of Willowbrook Road and Crafton Avenue, about a block away from Young Israel of Staten Island synagogue and adjacent to a little-used entrance to the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Organization (SIDDSO).

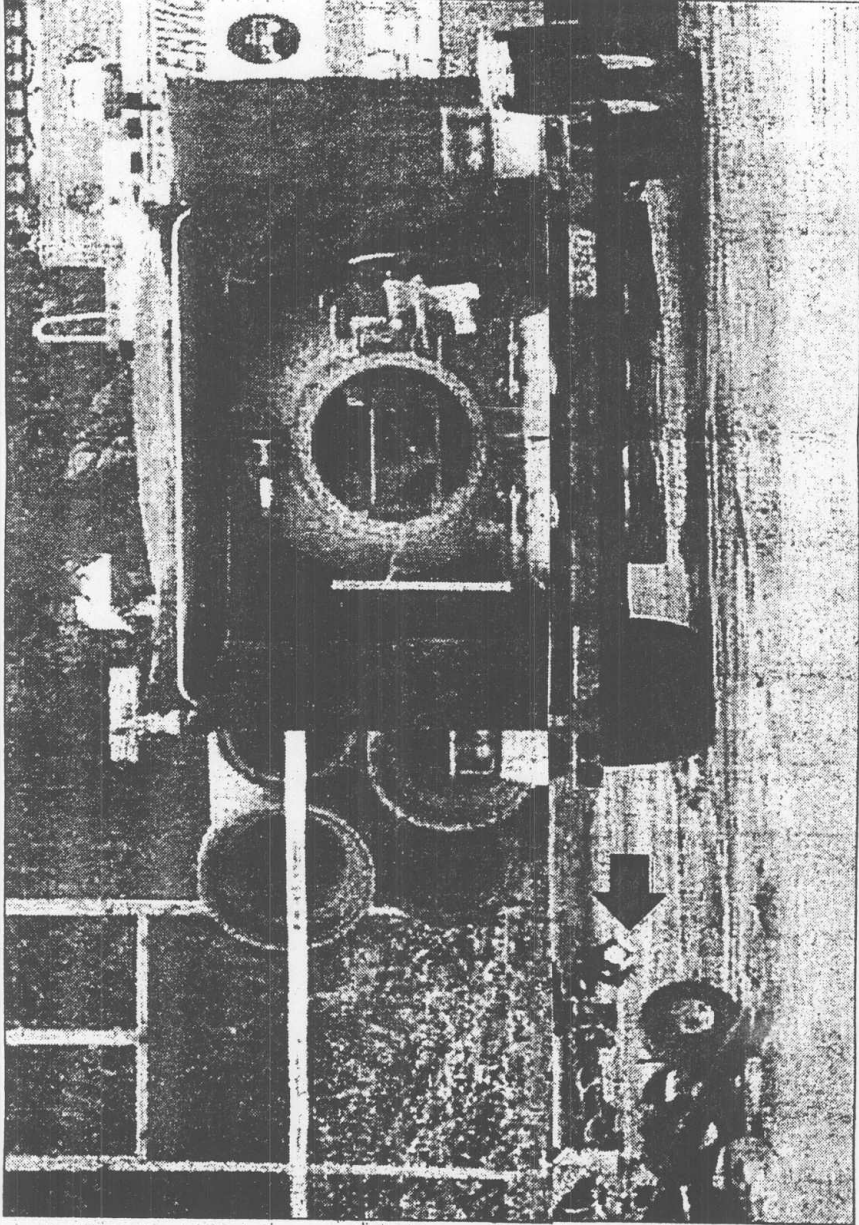
A construction worker found the bomb about six feet away from a high-pressure natural-gas pipeline buried three to four feet under-



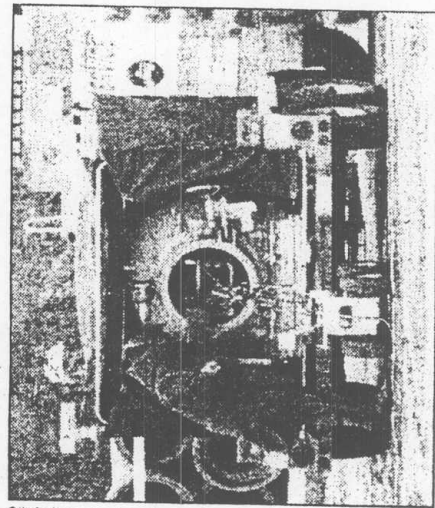
ADVANCE PHOTOS ■ ROB SOLLETT
Police close off Woolley Avenue near the site of the bomb.

"If the person knew what they were doing, they weren't looking to hurt anyone. It was very low-tech."

— Police Commissioner Howard Safir



A Bomb Squad robot, at left, carries a crude bomb the size of a soda can to a waiting container at Willowbrook Road and Woolley Avenue.



A member of the Bomb Squad secures the small bomb inside the container.



Police evacuate residents along Willowbrook Road and Crafton and Woolley avenues.