

state & society

Bombs knock out SLAC's knockout system

Two bombs exploded in the klystron gallery of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center early in the morning of 7 December, damaging about \$45 000 worth of electronic equipment. SLAC officials, the FBI and the San Mateo Sheriff's Office have not been able to determine any motive for the bombing. Sidney Drell, deputy director of SLAC, told *PHYSICS TODAY*, "We still have no information as to who did it or why. An investigation is still underway."

Damage to the accelerator was relatively limited. The accelerator tube itself, which is an underground housing 30 feet below the klystron gallery, was undamaged, as were the klystron tubes. The explosion damage was confined to electronics racks in the injector area and affected the main booster, sub booster, gun modulators, master oscillator, master trigger generator and the beam-knockout system. All but the beam-knockout system were repaired within a week.

SLAC scientists were able to turn on the accelerator beam for a trial run eight days after the explosion, and they reported that everything except the beam-knockout system worked perfectly. The beam-knockout system is used only in one type of experiment with K mesons; it shortens some of the beam pulses and spreads them out for accurate time-of-flight measurements.

In late December the beam was reported ready to be turned on as scheduled in January. The machine was programmed to be down during December for upgrading and modification.

Why did SLAC get off so lightly? "Given that he was there, he could have done more," said Drell. "He was in a sensitive part of the machine." The klystron tubes, housed in the gallery where the bomb exploded, cost as much as \$10 000 each.

Stanford officials don't know if the bomb was placed by someone who belongs to the lab or an outsider. No classified work is done at SLAC; hence daytime access to the center is relatively open, but there are nighttime checks, and anyone who passes into the accelerator itself is checked at a gate that is guarded around the clock.



Damage caused by the explosion of two bombs in the klystron gallery of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center is inspected. The accelerator itself was only slightly affected.

Stanford officials are relieved that the damage to the accelerator is so limited, but, according to SLAC director Wolfgang Panofsky, "One of the sad

consequences of this event is that the cost of the repair must be borne by our regular funds at the expense of our research program."

—SMH

AEC reorganizes: New CTR division

The Atomic Energy Commission announced a major reorganization of its operating functions, which Chairman James R. Schlesinger described as "a move to provide a coherent management structure and to improve effectiveness." The changes include higher priority for controlled thermonuclear research, consolidation of AEC efforts for environment and safety and a reduction of the number of assistant general managers dealing with military and international affairs.

The nature of the reorganization is to group activities of the AEC with respect to their output, rather than their function. The work of the assistant general manager for reactor development, who formerly supervised all reactor work, has been split up; civilian and space reactors are now under the jurisdiction

of the assistant general manager for energy and development programs, and military reactors come under the assistant general manager for national security.

Controlled thermonuclear research will now be administered as a division. Previously it was included in the division of research, headed by Paul W. McDaniel, and its head, Roy W. Gould, was assistant director of that division. Gould is now director of the division of controlled thermonuclear research. The reorganization comes shortly after special Joint Committee on Atomic Energy hearings on controlled fusion (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, January, page 101).

Another position created by the reorganization is that of assistant general manager for environment and safety. Julius H. Rubin, a personal assistant