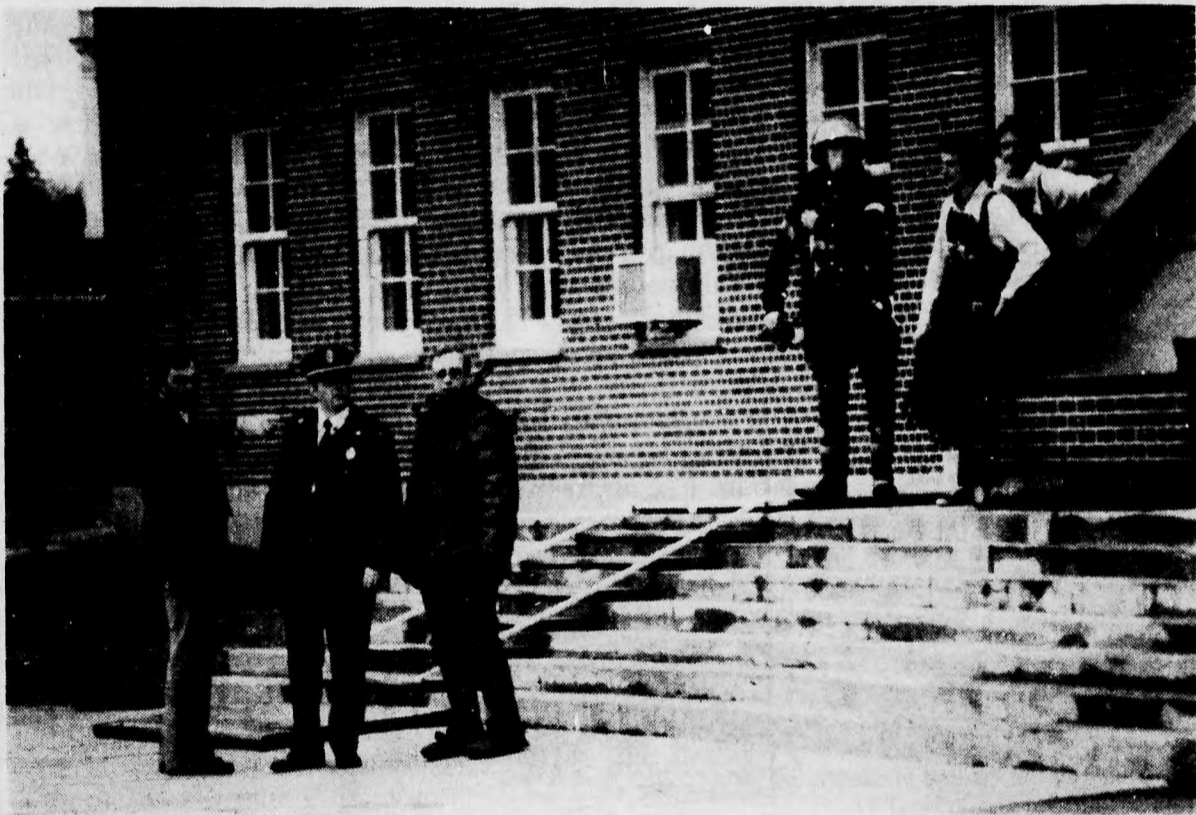


# 1000 evacuated; dual explosions result as chemicals detonated



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## Authorities plan the removal of the chemical

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Brunswickan Staff

Over 1000 people were evacuated from F.J. Toole Hall and surrounding buildings last Friday when a routine transfer of the extremely volatile diethyl aluminum chloride went out of control. The Fredericton police force, fire department, an RCMP bomb squad and UNB security were called in to handle the incident.

The experiment involved the transfer of the chemical from a metal container to a glass vacuum through a carefully controlled and monitored series of pipes. The transfer went out of control when a part of the apparatus failed. The containers were sealed and placed in liquid nitrogen as the solution is highly explosive when exposed to oxygen or when it reaches kindling temperature.

Fire Chief Powell, in coordination with the RCMP and the chemistry department made the decision to explode the containers on the terrace in front of Toole

Hall. He described the situation as "...posing extreme risks, both in terms of a possible explosion inside the building while we are dismantling the equipment, and in terms of the fumes that will be given off after the explosion."

The RCMP bomb squad carried the experiment out to the terrace in two parts, and detonated it with plastic explosives. After the

detonation it became apparent that not all of the chemical had been released, necessitating another attempt. The second explosion was more successful, leaving only cleanup work for the fire department.

Chief Powell described the operation as "entirely successful" and commended all the departments and services involved for their cooperative effort.



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## Special suits used to protect



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## The diethyl aluminum chloride is removed and detonated