Monmouth College Group Safe In Greece

Jan 12, 2007 - While Greek authorities checking whether an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Athens was the work of a leftist group, friends and family of a group of Monmouth College students touring the country can rest easy.

A rocket pierced the building and caused some damage inside but caused no casualties. U.S. officials had said earlier the building was occupied but now say it wasn't. The Embassy will remain closed today. American-owned banks and companies often have been targeted in small bomb attacks by groups like the Revolutionary Struggle in Greece. But today's incident is the most serious since the 2002 break-up of the far-left November 17 group.

In an e-mail from a Monmouth College official with the group, he said:

"Greetings from Athens! Yes, Monmouth College does indeed have a group of 22 students and two faculty here in Greece for a week of travel and study. Fortunately, we were not even in Athens today. We were traveling south in the Peloponnesse, where we visited the ancient site of Mycenae. Actually, we found out about the bombing from a concerned parent who called us on a cellphone while we were riding on the bus on our way back to Athens. We are now in our hotel where everything seems to be quite normal. We are looking forward to more sightseeing outside of Athens tomorrow and to a boat trip to the island of Aegina on Sunday and then back home. Our biggest worry right now is not the bombing of the embassy, but the possibility of a snowstorm back home. Thanks for your concern. Tom Sienkewicz"

One Greek official says any effort to revive terrorism "will not succeed."