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FIRE SWEEPS DUTCH ROYAL PALACE

Fire, starting in the roof, from the flame of a painter's blow torch rapidly engulfs one wing of the Royal palace at the Hague. Firemen work feverishly to quell the blaze, which threatens to destroy the art treasures of the House of Orange.

Valuable furnishings are carried from the burning building by Police, assisted by a force of troops and voluntary workers - mobilised to move the Royal possessions to the safety of the lawn.

The great ballroom is completely gutted, but under the supervision of Prince Bernhard, the collection of art exhibits (many of them gathered from Holland's eastern Empire) is salvaged. Though timely action saves the Royal possessions, damage to the Palace itself is estimated at 30,000 pounds.