

Dominican Consulate Bombed

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A bomb blast damaged the Dominican consulate and a motel next door Monday night, but there were no apparent injuries, Miami police said.

The consul, Aquilino Ricardo, 56, his wife, Argentina, two grandchildren and a secretary were in their second floor living quarters at the consulate at 1038 Brickell Ave. when the bomb went off at about 10:25 p.m. They all ran outside unhurt.

There also was no one hurt in the Arrowhead Motel, 1050 Brickell Ave., just across an alley to the south.

HOWEVER, the bomb blew out windows of both buildings and damaged the entrance and some of the front rooms of the two-story consulate. A car parked in front of the consulate was destroyed.

The bomb apparently was left in an entranceway at the consulate, police said.

The blast could be heard for a

couple of miles from the site.

"We heard a pop and then a bang," said Mrs. E. F. Curtis, who is visiting Miami from Eleuthera with her husband and staying at the Arrowhead. "We had been having some trouble with the air condition-

ing, and at first I thought it was that."

She and others who were staying at the motel milled around in the streets with a crowd of passersby while police investigated.

MIAMI POLICE said witnesses

had seen two men fleeing the area just a few minutes before the blast went off. One was described as being about 35 years old and five feet, eight inches tall. The other one

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Bomb Rips Dominican Consulate

None Are Injured,
But Damage Heavy

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was described only as being "heavyset."

Police said they were looking for a yellow or orange Volkswagen that may have been used as a getaway car.

Lt. Bill Riggs said police received an anonymous telephone tip after the explosion that there might be still another bomb in the consulate. Police searched the building with dogs, but they failed to find anything.

There was no immediate indication of the cause of the blast. However, over the weekend, Humberto Lopez Jr., a Cuban exile terrorist who fled the U.S. earlier this year to avoid a possible 15-year prison term on federal and state firearms and explosives violations charges, was arrested in the Dominican Republic.

DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES flew him to Miami where he was ordered held without bond Monday.

Lopez, 34, lost his left eye and three fingers on his left hand when a bomb he was making exploded. Another man injured in the same blast, Luis Crespo, is now in jail. He lost an arm in the explosion.

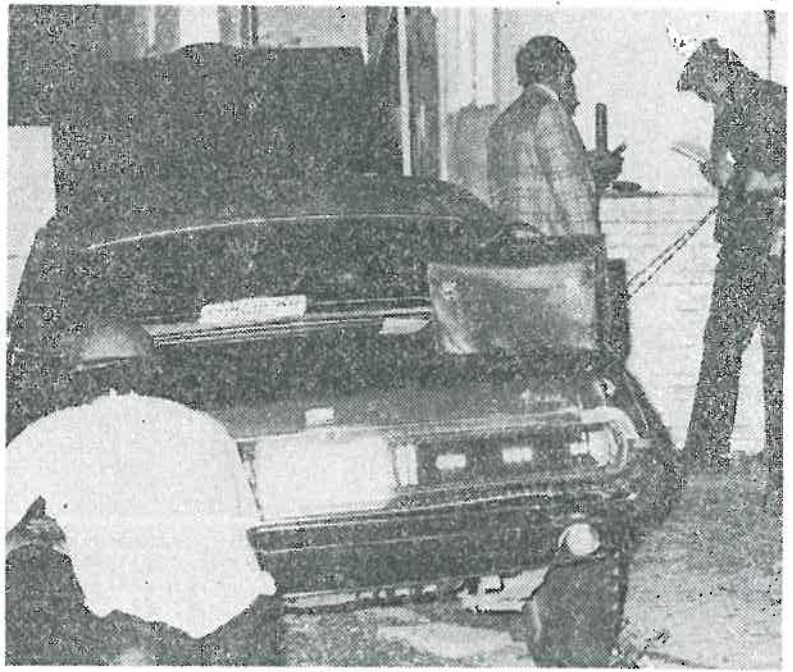
Ricardo's daughter, Rita Koffler, who had been visiting a sister but returned when she heard about the blast, said she wasn't surprised.

"They have been telling us this. They've been telling us this was going to happen," she said. "We've been getting threats for a long time."

But she wouldn't say who the threats were from or what they were about.

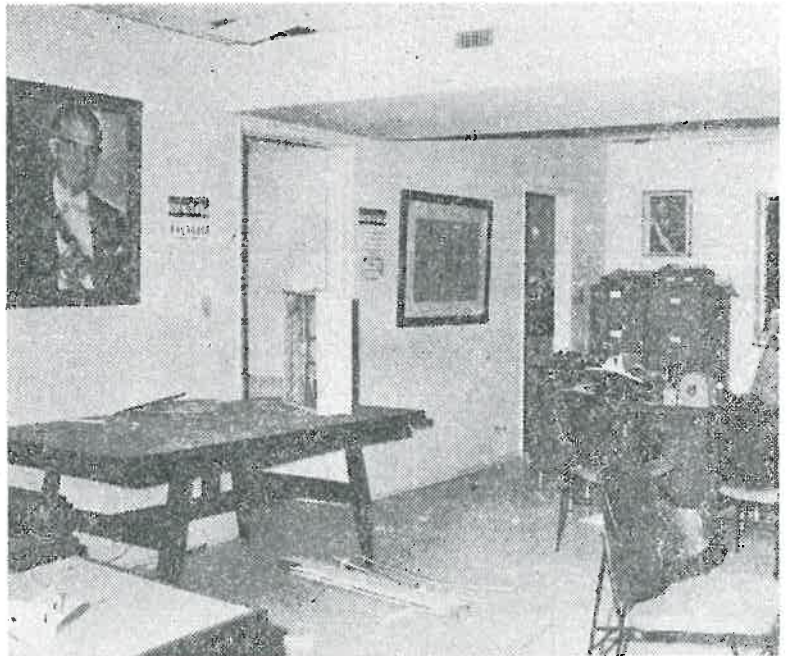
POLICE SAID it was amazing that the consul and his family were not hurt. Firemen who entered the building after the blast said the first floor was heavily damaged, with doors blown across rooms and wood shredded. But there was little damage done to the second floor, where the occupants were.

The explosion also blew out win-



—BATTLE VAUGHAN / Miami Herald Staff

Investigators Check Damage at Front of Consulate ... bomb was apparently placed near here



—BATTLE VAUGHAN / Miami Herald Staff

First Floor Absorbed Most of the Blast

... portrait is of President Balaguer

dows of surrounding buildings. Glass still was falling from the circular windows of the studios of television station WCIX-TV an hour after the explosion.

WCIX newsman Allan Hoffman said the station's 10 p.m. newscast was almost over when newsmen

heard the blast. Hoffman said he was able to get a report on the air almost immediately.

Sgt. Arthur Scheeren said Miami police have been watching all consulates in the area closely for some time, but he didn't give a reason for the surveillance.