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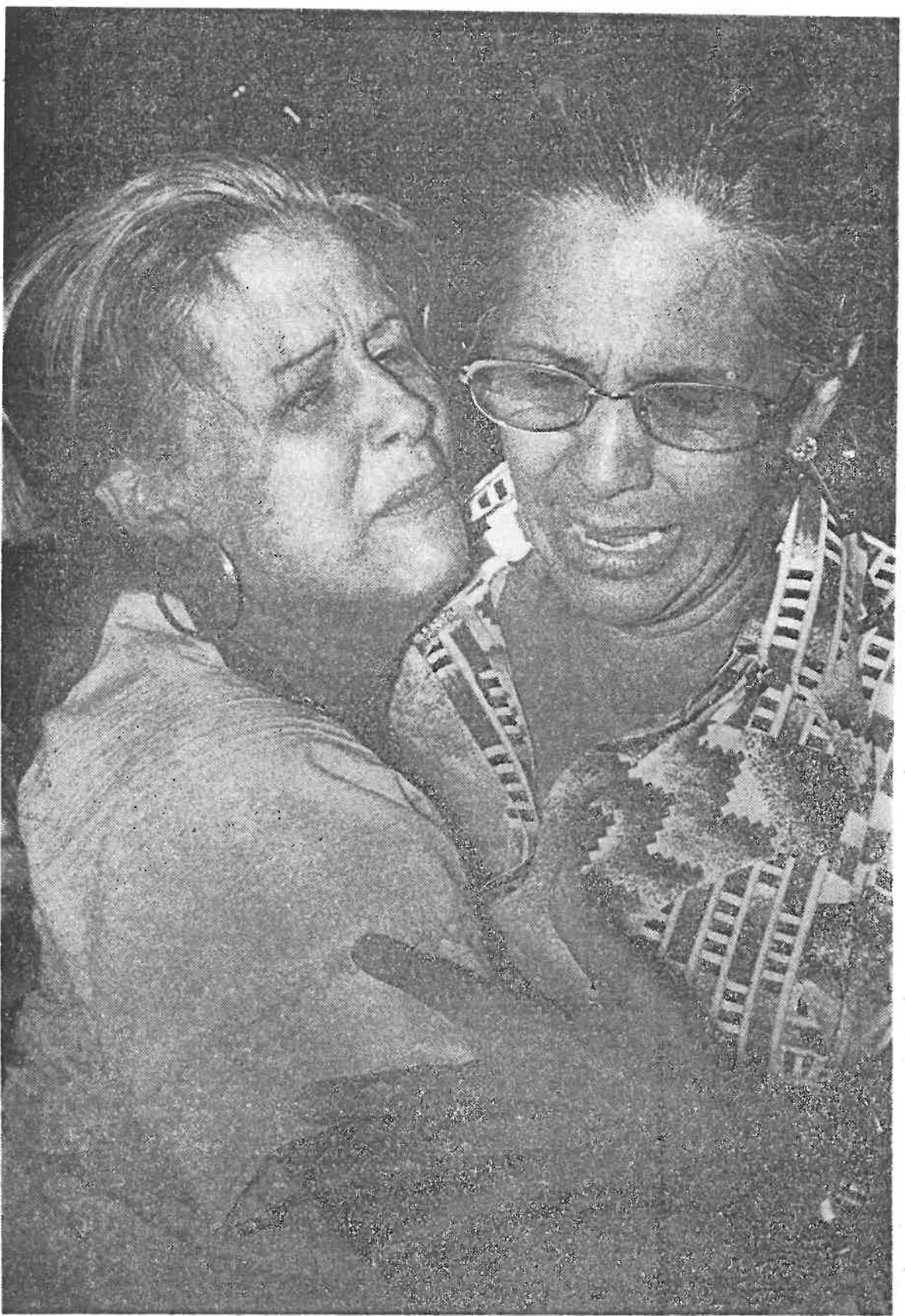


Miami News Staff Photos by MICHAEL O'BRIEN

## ***Dominican consulate bombed***

Aguilino Ricardo, 56-year-old Dominican Republic consul in Miami, at right, with handgun stuck into belt after the bombing of the consulate at 1038 Brickell Ave., last night. Ricardo, his wife and their two grandchildren, all of whom were on the second floor at the

time, escaped injury. Ground floor reception room after the blast is shown in picture at left. Arrest in the Dominican Republic last week of a convicted Cuban terrorist wanted for bail jumping here was seen as a possible motive for the bombing.



Miami News Staff Photo by MICHAEL O'BRIEN

**ARGENTINA RICARDO** (right), wife of the Dominican Republic consul in Miami, tearfully assures her daughter, Rita Koffler, that

Mrs. Koffler's two sons are safe after bomb blast rips consulate at 1038 Brickell Ave. (Other pictures, Page 5A.)

# Police seek motive in consulate bombing

By MILT SOSIN  
Miami News Reporter

Miami police today sought a motive and two possible suspects in the bombing of the Dominican Republic's Consulate at 1038 Brickell Ave.

No one was injured in the blast, which blew out windows at the consulate and the Arrowhead Motel next door and caused damage to a ground floor reception room and the entrance to the consulate.

On the second floor of the consulate at the time of the explosion were Consul Aguilino Ricardo, 56; his wife, Argentina, and their two grandchildren, Howard and Patrick Koffler, 12 and 9 respectively.

Rita Ricardo Koffler, mother of the boys, had left her sons at the consulate while she went on a family visit. When she returned, she found the consulate in an uproar and was fearful for the safety of her sons until her mother tearfully reassured her.

"I knew something like this was going to happen," Mrs. Koffler said, "I just knew it."

Two men were seen leaving the vicinity a short time before the blast rocked the neighborhood, investigators said.

The area is one of residences and office buildings. A car parked in front of the consulate was badly damaged.

Being sought in connection with the bombing was a yellow or orange Volkswagen in which the two men may have left the area.

The consulate reportedly has received threats in recent days. Investigators speculated that the bombing may have been in retaliation for the arrest by Dominican authorities last week of 33-year-old Humberto Lopez Jr., on a charge of illegal entry.

Lopez, a Cuban exile, was deported to Miami and is being held without bond pending arraignment on a bail jumping charge and sentencing on federal and state convictions for firearms violations.