

## Letelier trial focuses on CIA link

By LARRY MARGASAK

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense attorneys in the trial of men charged in the assassination of Orlando Letelier renewed efforts yesterday to show that the man whose bomb killed the former Chilean ambassador had connections to the CIA.

\* Edward Cannell, a former Marine Corps guard at the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, testified that Michael Townley, who has admitted to providing the explosive that killed Letelier, attended the same social functions as employees of a super-secret section of the embassy.

Cannell was one of the first defense witnesses in the trial of three anti-Castro Cubans charged with roles in the 1976 killing of Letelier, a Chilean ambassador to the United States

### Defense says man whose bomb killed diplomat had agency ties

during the Marxist regime of President Salvador Allende, who was overthrown and slain by a military junta in 1973.

Cannell, of Beltsville, Md., said Townley attended functions at the Marine Corps residence in Santiago along with employees of Pol-R, which stands for political research.

But Cannell said he doesn't recall Townley—an American-born former Chilean secret agent—talking to any particular person from the Pol-R section.

"You never saw Michael Townley go to that section?" pursued prosecutor E. Lawrence Barcella Jr.

"He wasn't allowed there," Cannell responded.

Defense attorneys have contended Townley assassinated Letelier on Embassy Row in Washington while working for the CIA. The government denies it, although Townley has testified he spoke to the CIA on several occasions but never worked for the agency.

CIA documents filed in the case say the agency lost contact with Townley, and the defense reportedly put Cannell on the stand to show Townley was highly visible while living in Chile. Cannell would not say whether Pol-R was a CIA operation.

The defense also recalled to the stand Letelier's widow, Isabel, who testified she was in constant fear of Chile's former secret police agency, DINA, while she lived in the United States.

"All the time I felt I was followed and my children were being followed by the Chilean secret police, and they had a way of getting into my mail," Mrs. Letelier said.

Before her husband was killed somebody had been tampering with her mail, she said, and letters often would arrive in a crumpled condition and sometimes did not come in the original envelopes.

She recalled that her husband was told after he was released from prison in Chile by that country's current military government: "Be very careful. You should never speak about ... mistreatment. The hand of DINA is very long. DINA has a very long arm."

All three defendants have pleaded innocent to all charges.

Guillermo Novo Sampol and Alvin Ross Diaz, both members of the Union City-based Cuban Nationalist Movement, are charged with conspiracy to murder a foreign official, murder of a foreign official, the first-degree murders of Letelier and a co-worker, Ronni Moffitt, and murder by use of explosives. Each charge carries a maximum life term.

Guillermo Novo and his brother, Ignacio, are charged with lying to a grand jury, which carries a maximum punishment of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Ignacio Novo is also charged with failing to report the crime, which carries a maximum of three years in prison and a \$500 fine.