

Lawyer bares chance Pulido was drugged

By GARY M. FISHMAN

The number one defense witness for three North Hudson Cuban exiles implicated in the murder of Orlando Letelier was missing for approximately three hours before he died early Tuesday morning of an apparent heart attack, an attorney he was working with said yesterday.

Paul Goldberger, defense counsel for the three, said neither he nor friends of Dr. Juan B. Pulido can yet account for the physician's whereabouts from approximately 11 p.m. Monday to when he returned to his Englewood home approximately at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Goldberger is concerned over the remote possibility that during these missing hours Dr. Pulido, 49, of 152 Summit St., might have been slipped any number of chemicals which could have induced the attack, the third he had suffered in 11 years. Dr. Pulido died at approximately 4 a.m. Tuesday, according to authorities.

Dr. Thomas Lynch, assistant Bergen County medical examiner, yesterday said tests which could determine the existence of such chemicals will not be completed for nearly three months. Until then, cause of death will be listed as "pending." Dr. Lynch performed an autopsy on Dr. Pulido's body yesterday morning and took a full complement of samples for toxicological tests and microscopic slides.

Dr. Pulido's testimony at the upcoming trial of Guerillmo and Ignacio Novo Sampol and Alvin Ross Diaz was considered "crucial," according to Goldberger. Guerillmo Novo and Ross Diaz were two of eight indicted for conspiracy in the assassination of Letelier, a former Marxist Chilean official critical of that country's current right-wing regime. Ignacio Novo was indicted for lying to the grand jury.

Letelier and an assistant were killed by a remote controlled car-bomb on Sept. 21, 1976 in Washington,

D.C. The federal government alleges right-wing Chilean secret police agents recruited the Cuban exiles to aid in the plot.

Most recently Dr. Pulido, a leader in the Cuban exile community, had been helping the three defendants by raising defense funds and helping Goldberger and his co-counsel, Lawrence Dubin, uncover material important to the defense, Goldberger said.

Dr. Pulido was meeting with members of the exile community in either Union City or Jersey City Monday evening until about 11 p.m. to discuss the defense fund. He then left alone, saying he had to meet "somebody important" for the defense fund, according to Goldberger. Goldberger said it has not yet been determined who Dr. Pulido met, if anyone.

Friends of Dr. Pulido discount the possibility that he was poisoned. Instead, they explain, Dr. Pulido had been under great tension stemming from the Letelier case, which has international implications.

Dr. Pulido lived with his family and was a general practitioner with a medical office in Newark. He was born Feb. 17, 1929 in Ceinfuegos, Cuba, attended Havana University and left the country in 1960. In the United States, Dr. Pulido was an active member of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, an anti-Castro organization based in Union City and Miami that has been implicated in several terrorist bombings. The Novo brothers and Ross Diaz are high ranking members of the group. Dr. Pulido also belonged to the Cuban Lions Club of West New York, served as the New Jersey director of the Cuban American Medical Association of Miami, and was a member of the American Medical Association.

He will be buried today at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington after a 9 a.m. mass at St. Augustine's Church at 39th Street and New York Avenue in Union City.