

Cuban nationalists disclaim Omega 7

The president of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, an anti-Castro group headquartered in Union City, has denied FBI allegations that the organization might have been connected to Sunday night's bombings in Union City and Weehawken and at Kennedy Airport in New York.

Armand Santana, president of the movement, said he was reacting to quotes attributed to FBI agent Edward Foley, head of the agency's criminal and organized crime division in New York, that linked the movement with Omega 7, the organization believed by the FBI to have set the bombs.

Foley was quoted as saying that Omega 7 was "a pseudonym used by members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement." Foley had called Omega 7 "a rather small group."

Santana disputed Foley's statements in saying, "Let Mr. Foley back up his words. He has offered no solid proof or evidence to back his charges."

Santana did admit that Virgilio Pablo Paz and Jose Dionisio Suarez, the two men sought by the FBI in connection with the bombings, were members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement. But he denied the movement had anything to do with Omega 7.

Santana made his remarks in the movement's headquarters, at 4207 New York Ave., Union City. The movement, which, according to Santana, was founded in 1959, has headquarters in Union City and Miami.

He said that he and other members of the movement will meet

with the group's lawyers, Goldberg, Feldman and Dugan Inc., in New York City, to discuss what legal action will be taken by the movement against Foley for his remarks.

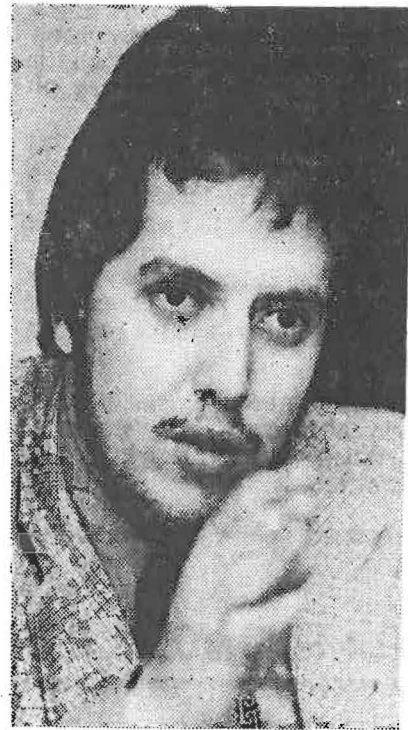
The movement stands opposed to the efforts of the New Jersey Cuban Refugee Program, which has been working actively with the Cuban government to release political prisoners held in Cuban jails. The program's offices, at 4912 Park Ave., Weehawken, were bombed Sunday night.

When asked if the Cuban Nationalist Movement supported the bombings, Santana said, "We support any action that would help overthrow the present regime in Cuba, a regime that has held our people in slavery for 20 years." He also said that "history has shown no tyrannies have ever been overthrown by votes, but by action and violence."

Santana said that the movement has more support in the local Cuban community than the Cuban Refugee Program. When asked if Cuban groups like Omega 7 were extorting money from local Cuban merchants, Santana replied that he had heard nothing to substantiate it.

Also, when asked if Omega 7 really does exist, he said, "After five years in the news, I really would believe they exist."

In addition to the Sunday night bombing at the Cuban Refugee Program's headquarters, bombs also went off at the Almacen El Espanol, an enterprise which ships medicine



Armand Santa
Angry at FBI

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and goods to Cuba, located at 3600 New York Ave., Union City, and at the Trans World Airlines terminal at Kennedy Airport, New York.

The two bombs in North Hudson exploded after 11 p.m. Sunday and the Kennedy blast occurred at 8:46 p.m.

FBI investigators laid the blame

on Omega 7, after callers claiming responsibility for the bombings identified themselves as members of the organization.

FBI officials said the bombings were reactions to the sentencing of three Hudson County men, members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, who were convicted in the bombing death of Orlando Letelier, Chilean ambassador to the United States, who was killed on Sept. 19, 1976.

They said the TWA blast was because of the airline's plans to begin regular passenger service with Cuba.

Paz and Suarez are wanted by the FBI for questioning in the bombings.