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# Case Against 3 Cubans In Letelier Case Weakens

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WASHINGTON — The case against three Cubans on trial here in connection with Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier's assassination developed cracks Monday that later may be exploited by defense attorneys.

As the trial entered its third week, one prosecution witness admitted that in previous testimony he had incorrectly identified one of the defendants, Alvin Ross Diaz, as a man who had rented an apartment from him in Union City, N.J.

The FBI, in searching that apartment last year, found several bomb parts and documents that the prosecution said connected Alvin Ross to the Letelier assassination.

The apartment was leased to Carlos P. Garcia, according to the lease agreement. Prosecutors Eugene Propper and Lawrence Barcella alleged in a preliminary hearing Jan. 1) that Garcia was an alias used by

Ross.

They buttressed that assertion by calling landlord Luis Vega to testify at a hearing in which defense attorneys tried to have the seized items ruled inadmissible in the trial.

After three attempts, Vega tenuously identified Ross — who was seated at the defense table — as the man who rented the apartment. But when Vega appeared to testify at the trial, defense attorneys produced a man they called "the real" Carlos P. Garcia. Vega, without hesitation, agreed that man was the one he knew as Garcia.

Ross is charged, along with Guillermo Novo and two fugitives, with conspiring to assassinate Letelier under the direction of confessed Chilean secret agent Michael V. Townley.

A third defendant, Ignacio Novo, is charged with lying to a grand jury and helping the other conspirators elude capture.