Hot Weather Thwarted More Killings, Informant Testifies at Letelier Trial

won Ross' confidence because he had provided

both Ross and Ignacio Novo with false identity

cards. Those papers later would be used by the

defendants in an attempt to elude capture, ac-

By TOM FIEDLER Herald Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - An FBI informant testified Wednesday that one of three Cuban exiles on trial in connection with Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier's death told him the assassins also

had plans for three other

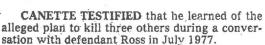
murders.

But, informant Ricardo Canette said, those plans were disrupted or postponed because "the climate in the South was too inhospitable. too hot."

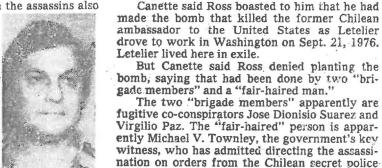
He said he didn't know the names of the alleged "targets." but was told one of the three was a news reporter.

Canette, also Cubanborn, is a surprise government witness in the case against Alvin Ross

lermo Novo Sampol. The three are members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement.



Canette, an admitted forger, apparently had



ROSS DIAZ

CANETTE, IN cross-examination by defense Diaz, Ignacio Novo Sampol and his brother, Guilattorney Lawrence Dubbin, said Ross told him of the three other targets while boasting about the militant Cuban group's activities.

agency DINA.

cording to the indictment.

Ross said the plans had to be altered because of the Letelier assassination and because "the climate in the South was too hot." Canette said.

In a side comment, Canette also said that after he reported this conversation to the FBI.

agents asked that he submit to a lie-detector test. He said he agreed.

Judge Barrington Parker Jr. quickly instructed the jury to disregard that comment, which apparently was inadmissible, in his view.

During most of the day, Canette was subjected to a sharp cross-examination by defense attorney Dubbin, who questioned Canette about his lengthy record as a forger and con man, in an attempt to discredit his testimony.

Dubbin also tried, with only small success, to catch Canette in minor discrepanices by comparing his testimony in the case with statements given by him previously to the FBI or the grand

HIS TESTIMONY is crucial to the government's case because it independently bolsters many of the details brought out last week by Townley, the confessed DINA agent.

Canette told the jury Tuesday that fugitive Paz - in Ross' presence - admitted to him that "We did it [killed Letelier]. We know it. They know it. But let them prove it." Ross nodded in assent. Canette said.

Canette also said Ross once complained to him that if Chile didn't help him elude federal agents, he could "lay this into the hands of Manuel Contreras."

Contreras was the head of DINA and the man who allegedly ordered Letelier's death.