

Beeper in Cuban Militant's Car Is Probed in Letelier Bombing

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The FBI is trying to determine whether an electronic beeper found in a car driven by an anti-Castro militant was used to detonate the bomb that killed former Chilean foreign minister Orlando Letelier in Washington, D.C., in 1976.

In a sworn statement filed in federal court Wednesday, Miami FBI Agent George F. Cannon, Jr. said the beeper, found in the glove compartment of a gray 1977 Lincoln Continental driven by Alvin Ross Díaz, may be linked to the Letelier assassination.

"It is my belief that the electronic pager or beeper . . . in the glove-box of the . . . Lincoln Continental may have been used as the device which caused the explosion of Letelier's car on September 21, 1976,"

Cannon said in the affidavit, written to support a search warrant for the car.

"It is believed by members of (an) FBI Laboratory team that an electronic pager or beeper may have been used to detonate the explosive destructive device in Letelier's car," Cannon said.

The statement tends to confirm speculation that the bomb that killed Letelier in his car was detonated by remote radio control. The beeper has been sent to an FBI laboratory for study, a source close to the investigation said.

Federal investigators are known to believe that Letelier, once an official in Chilean President Salvador Allende's Marxist government, was murdered by Cuban militants acting under the direction of Chilean secret police agents. Díaz and an a fel-

low militant Guillermo Novo, investigators have said, are central figures in the case.

Díaz and Novo were arrested April 14 in Dade County and were transferred to New Jersey to face federal charges unrelated to the Letelier bombing. Both men are members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement (CNM), "also known to the FBI as Omega 7 . . . The Letelier investigation has focused on these organizations," the affidavit added.

"I would think they would have an idea as to the nature or the type (of beeper). I don't know what would lead them to believe that the pager was the one he (Díaz) had in his car," said Díaz' attorney, Donald Spain. "It sounds to me that they're really groping. I just think the government is frustrated."