

Seized fugitive to be questioned in Letelier death

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Guillermo Novo Sampol, a fugitive anti-Castro exile arrested here yesterday for parole violations after a bombing conviction, is wanted for questioning in the September 1976 car-bombing death of former Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier, a federal prosecutor said.

Novo, a high-ranking member of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, (CNM), was arrested by a task force of FBI agents and Metro detectives which also arrested Bay of Pigs veteran Alvin Ross Diaz on federal bomb-making charges, and his associate, **Manuel Menendez**.

Federal investigators refused to say whether there is any connection between the explosives **Ross Diaz** is charged with using and storing in a Union City, N.J., building and the explosives used in the bomb that killed Letelier in Washington.

Ross Diaz, also a CNM member, was charged with possession of cocaine. Inside his 1977 silver Lincoln Continental Mark IV, police found about two pounds of cocaine and wigs and disguises they believe **Ross** and **Novo** used when hiding in **Menendez'** Miami apartment.

Police had been following the car driven by **Ross Diaz** for three days prior to the arrest. Investigators said the three men were observed making trips together in the car and placing packages in the trunk.

Novo and **Ross Diaz** had appeared under subpoena a year ago before a federal grand jury proving the Letelier bombing.

Novo had been a fugitive for the last 10 months after failing to appear for a parole revocation hearing in Trenton, N.J.

U. S. attorneys had been trying to flush him for additional questioning on the Letelier case in exchange for a deal on parole violation charges.

In a letter last June to Novo's brother, **Ignacio**, who lives in Miami, U.S. Attorney **Eugene Propper**, in charge of the Letelier case, offered him the deal if he would submit to a lie detector test on the Letelier bombing.

Propper said in the letter that he also wanted **Ignacio** and a New Jersey associate to submit to a lie detector test on the bombing.

About 23 Cuban exiles — most of them Bay of Pigs veterans or members of the CNM — have been subpoenaed to testify before the federal grand jury concerning the bombing.

The CNM, founded in New York by Bay of Pigs veteran **Felipe Rivero**, was the first exile anti-Castro organization to claim bombings of Castro targets around the world. **Novo** was convicted four years ago for conspiring in 1969 to destroy the Cuban consulate and trade commission in Montreal.

Rivero said yesterday he is retired from the CNM, now headed by **Ignacio Novo**, and refused to comment on the arrests. He said that he



Guillermo Novo Sampol

has been questioned by police about the Letelier bombing and has appeared under subpoena before the federal grand jury.

Investigators believe the bombing was carried out by Cuban exiles in a conspiracy with the Chilean military junta. Letelier was a diplomat under the government of the late Marxist president **Salvador Allende**.

The warrant for **Ross Diaz** in New Jersey charges him with conspiracy, and with making and storing explosives and incendiaries found in Union City last month.

Ross Diaz, 45, of 9390 SW 38th St., and **Menendez**, 38, 5605 NW 7th St., Apt. 214, were also charged with carrying a firearm in the commission of a felony and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Menendez, **Novo** and **Ross Diaz** are in Dade County Jail awaiting a hearing before a U.S. magistrate.