

FBI hunts for reputed pal of Novo, Ross Diaz

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The FBI is searching for a 26-year-old man believed to be an associate of two men arrested here last week who are wanted for questioning in the bombing-murder of former Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier.

A federal warrant charges Virgilio Paz Romero with bomb-making. His fingerprints were found in Alvin Ross Diaz' Union City, N.J., office, from which explosive components were seized, says an FBI affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Newark.

Ross Diaz was arrested on bomb-making charges and Guillermo Novo Sampol was arrested for failing to appear at a June probation revocation hearing. The two were arrested together here April 14 and are being held on \$200,000 bonds for questioning in the Letelier murder.

Paz is believed to be "armed and dangerous" and the search is "concentrating along the eastern seaboard, particularly in Miami," an FBI spokesman in Newark said.

The FBI affidavit says two of Paz' prints were on a bottle partly filled with an incendiary chemical. Paz was described as a Union City car salesman, who, like the two other men, is a member of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, a militant anti-Castro organization.

One of Novo's thumbprints also was found on a letter in Ross Diaz' office, the affidavit says.

Ross Diaz had explosive components "at least as early as July 6, 1976, to at least as late as Nov. 1, 1977," the affidavit states.

Letelier was killed in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 21, 1976.

The affidavit says a 16-ounce bottle in the office was half-filled with potassium permanganate (a heat intensifier used in incendiary devices), and "none of the eight ounces missing from the bottle were found in said room." The affidavit says a substantial amount of gun powder removed from shotgun shells also was missing from the office.

"Persons having access to said room have probably made a destructive device," concludes the affidavit, signed by FBI bomb expert William Gilman.

Gilman and the FBI spokesman in Newark would not comment on whether the bomb used to kill Letelier were made of materials reportedly missing from the office.

The affidavit links for the first time two organizations, CNM and Omega 7. "The CNM has been involved in terrorist activities in the past, both inside and outside the U.S.," the affidavit says. "Under the aegis of Omega 7, it has claimed credit for at least three bombings in New Jersey since September 1976."

While investigating the CNM "as it relates to possible violations of the Neutrality Law Act," FBI agents went to a "commercial-residential building" at 4523 Bergenline Ave., Union City, on Feb. 28, the affidavit says.

The superintendent of the building identified pictures of Ross Diaz as the man who rented an office for the C & P Novelty Co. under the name Carlos Garcia, the affidavit says.

On March 8, the affidavit says, the superintendent called the FBI and said that while cleaning the office



Paz



Associated Press

This was the car in which former Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier was killed

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left vacant when Ross Diaz was evicted in November. He had found items that might be of interest to the agency.

The affidavit says agents found more than eight feet of detonating cord, 18 12-gauge shotgun shells with the gunpowder removed, the half-empty bottle of potassium permanganate, eight electric matches (a device that can be used to ignite low explosives), about nine primer caps and a weapons ledger.

The ledger gave detailed descriptions of 27 weapons, among them a two-barreled nickel-plated shotgun, sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun, M-1 rifle and 11 handguns.

The ledger catalogued the weapons as being in two locations, identified only as "#1" or "#2" and "in charge of" or "in possession" of persons identified by initials.

It also listed grenades, detonator cords, fuse igniters, mercury contact capsules, unrepaired watches, a quantity of "soaps and detergents" and music equipment.

The FBI refused to say whether any weapons described in the ledger had been found or traced to terrorist acts.

A probation revocation motion filed in the U.S. court in Newark says Novo violated probation by traveling to Venezuela and Chile after his 1974 sentence for conspiring to destroy the Cuban consulate and trade mission in Montreal.

"Novo took action to conceal his travel and its purpose from the lawful authorities. . . . In addition, the evidence will show Novo was traveling with Orlando Bosch," said the motion, signed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene Propper. Propper leads the Letelier murder investigation.

Bosch is being held in Venezuela in connection with the bombing of a Cuban airliner last year.

"The trips to Venezuela and Chile are very important to the grand jury's investigation of the (Letelier) murder and Novo was questioned about them in two appearances before the grand jury," the motion states.