

# Exile Denies Tie To Envoy Death

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A Cuban exile wanted for questioning by federal authorities said yesterday in Newark that he had nothing to do with the bombing murder of former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier.

Guillermo Novo Sampol, 38, said he was being used as a "scapegoat" by authorities investigating the murder of Letelier who was killed when a bomb exploded under his car in Washington in September 1976.

"I never heard the name Letelier until I was approached to appear in a grand jury," Novo said prior to a bail hearing in Newark Federal Court.

Last year, Novo appeared several times before a grand jury investigating the Letelier case in Washington but cited his Fifth Amendment rights and did not testify.

After yesterday's hearing, Novo was ordered held in lieu of \$200,000 bail by U.S. Magistrate William Hunt and remanded to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York to await a probation violation hearing May 9 in Trenton.

Novo, a Union City resident, was arrested last month in Florida on charges that he violated probation by traveling to Venezuela and Chile. He was placed on parole after serving six months of a jail term for conspiring to bomb the Chilean consulate on Montreal.

Officials contend that Novo went to South America with Orlando Bosch, a fugitive indicted in Venezuela for the bombing of an airplane in which 83 people were killed.

Novo told UPI that authorities offered him a deal in exchange for information about the Letelier case.

"I know nothing about what they want to talk about," he said. "They should talk to the Cuban government. They should talk to the Communists."

In court, Assistant U.S. Attorney William Braniff said Novo was arrested with false identification and a wig and charged that Novo had traveled in South America using aliases.

Alvin Ross Diaz, 45, also was arrested in Florida on charges he allegedly conspired to manufacture explosive devices in a Union City office building. Authorities have declined to comment on whether the devices are connected to Letelier's murder.