

# Letelier Inquiry Sees Chilean Link to Cuban Exiles

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MIAMI, April 16—Federal and local investigators putting together the events that preceded the murder of the former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier in Washington in 1976 said today that they believed the recruitment of right-wing Cuban exiles by Chilean agents was the key to the assassination.

The arrest of Cuban exiles in connection with the bombing death of Mr. Letelier has caused law enforcement officials to dig deeper still into the relationship between the Government of Augusto

Pinochet of Chile and anti-Castro terrorists in this country.

They also said evidence suggests that anti-Castro terrorists at one time were provided passports and a promise of sanctuary in Chile in return for their assistance on matters of mutual interest.

Leaders of Patria y Libertad, a right-wing nationalist group in Chile, toured the United States in 1975 to defend the overthrow in 1973 of the leftist government of President Salvador Allende Gossens. The tour also served to recruit Cuban exiles as allies of the Pinochet Government, according to the investigators.

It is suspected, these sources said, that the Patria y Libertad members were in fact agents of DINA, the Chilean intelligence network.

Hector Duran, the Chilean consul for public information and cultural affairs in Miami, has reportedly been subpoenaed by the Federal grand jury investigating the Letelier slaying. Mr. Duran could not be reached for comment.

Guillermo Novo, one of the Cubans taken into custody Friday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a central figure in the Letelier case, was in Chile in early 1976, at the same time two other

suspected Cuban terrorists were there, the investigators said.

One of the others was Orlando Bosch, who is being held by Venezuelan authorities on suspicion of having planned the bombing of an Air Cubana jetliner in Barbados in 1976. That bombing claimed 78 lives one month after Mr. Letelier, who was Ambassador to the United States under the Allende government, died when a bomb exploded in a car he was riding on a Washington street.

The third Cuban known to be in Chile during the same period in early 1976 was Rolando Ortero, then a fugitive wanted in the United States for the bombings of several buildings in Miami, including the local F.B.I. office.

Mr. Ortero subsequently was deported to the United States, after Washington

put pressure on Santiago, and he was convicted in Miami of the bombing charges. He was transferred from prison in Florida to the District of Columbia, where his cooperation has been sought for the last three months in the grand jury investigation into the role played by Chile in the Letelier death and into the possibility that anti-Castro Cubans had been recruited to carry out the execution.

After considerable pressure, Chile last week also deported Michael Townley, a United States electronics expert wanted for questioning by the grand jury. Mr. Townley also was believed to have had contact with Mr. Novo in Chile two years ago.

Mr. Novo, 38 years old, was technically held here on a charge of probation viola-

tion that grew out of a conviction in 1969 of having conspired to bomb Cuba's consulate and trade mission in Montreal. Arrested with him in Miami was Alvin Ross Diaz, 45, who was wanted on a warrant charging him with involvement in the 1977 bombing of a Union City, N.J., company that ships medical supplies to Cuba by way of Canada.

Both men were members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, a militant exile group.

The men had earlier been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury in Washington, along with Mr. Novo's brother, Ignacio. The latter apparently testified, but Mr. Diaz, while answering the summons, refused an offer of immunity and did not testify. Guillermo Novo did not answer the subpoena.