Townley Is Sentenced In Letelier Murder Plot

WASHINGTON, May 11 (AP) — Michael Vernon Townley, a former Chilean agent, was sentenced today to serve between 40 months and 10 years in prison for planting the car bomb that killed the former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier and an aide.

United States District Judge Barrington D. Parker stuck to a sentencing agreement that Mr. Townley made with prosecutors Aug. 11, when he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to murder a foreign official. The killing occurred in September 1976.

Judge Parker said that if Mr. Towniey had not fulfilled his part of the pleabargaining arrangement by testifying for the Government in the trial of Mr. Letelier's assassins, he "would be a prime candidate for the maximum penalty which could be imposed."

Mr. Townley, a United States citizen, could have received a life term, as did two anti-Castro Cubans who were convicted of having played roles in an international conspiracy to murder Mr. Letelier.