

# ***Judge Refuses a Plea To a Reduced Charge In Murder of Letelier***

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3 (AP) — A Federal judge refused today to accept a guilty plea, worked out between prosecution and defense attorneys, from an American connected with the bombing death of Orlando Letelier.

The defendant, Michael V. Townley, was reported to be cooperating with the prosecution and was to have pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiracy to murder a foreign official.

But today, District Judge Barrington D. Parker said: "The court does not feel at this point that it is fully advised. "Before the court proceeds further, it feels it must step back and consider. As a result, there will be no proceeding at this point."

The judge said that he had heard of the proposed plea for the first time when the United States Attorney, Earl J. Silbert, two assistants, and the defense lawyer, Seymour Glanzer, came to his chambers just before the scheduled court appearance. "At this time, the court won't discuss any detail," Judge Parker said. There were, however, reports that a session to examine the proposed plea would soon take place.

Mr. Townley, a 35-year-old explosives expert and onetime locksmith, was expelled from Chile in April. His cooperation is believed to have resulted in the indictment earlier this week of seven persons in the killing of Mr. Letelier, a Cabinet Minister and Ambassador to the United States under the Government of the President Salvador Allende Gossens.

Mr. Townley had been named in the indictment as a co-conspirator, but was not charged because he had agreed to plead guilty to the conspiracy count. The indictment said that Mr. Townley, acting on the orders of the former chief of the Chilean intelligence service, built the bomb with the help of five anti-Castro Cubans and put it under Mr. Letelier's car.