

# 'Omega 7' suspects drop from sight

## FBI stalks fugitives in blasts and murders

By BARBARA KUKLA

The FBI yesterday said that two New Jersey men considered the "prime suspects" in the Sunday night bombings of two Hudson County storefronts and a terminal at Kennedy Airport were last seen in the "metropolitan area" two weeks ago.

A spokesman for the FBI's Criminal Division in New York, which is coordinating investigations into the activities of Omega 7, an anti-Castro terrorist group, said the pair — Jose Dionisio Suarez Esquivel, 39, of Elizabeth and Virgilio Paz Remero, 26, of Union City — is "armed and dangerous."

The fugitives are members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, which the FBI on Monday described as "synonymous with the Omega 7." They also are wanted in the 1976 Washington car bombing murder of former Chilean Ambassador Orlando Letelier and an aide, Roni Moffitt, a former Passaic resident.

The Omega 7, in telephone calls to news agencies, has claimed responsibility for 17 bombings from New

York to San Juan since 1975, including the three Sunday night.

There were no signs yesterday of immediate arrests.

A criminal division spokesman for the FBI, however, said, "We are closer (to arresting Suarez and Paz) than we have been in some time."

The FBI said it was not clear whether the two men were traveling together or separately. Paz was thought to be traveling with his wife, Idania, 25.

"We are desperately involved in a fugitive hunt for these individuals," said FBI agent Edward Foley, who heads the criminal division.

Paz and Suarez were named in arrest warrants filed in federal court in Washington last May, charging them with conspiring to murder Letelier and Mrs. Moffitt.

Letelier, described as a close aide to the late Chilean president Salvador Allende, and Moffitt were killed when a bomb exploded in their car on a street near the Chilean Embassy Sept. 21, 1976.

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Three members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, all Hudson County residents, last week were sentenced for taking part in the murders.

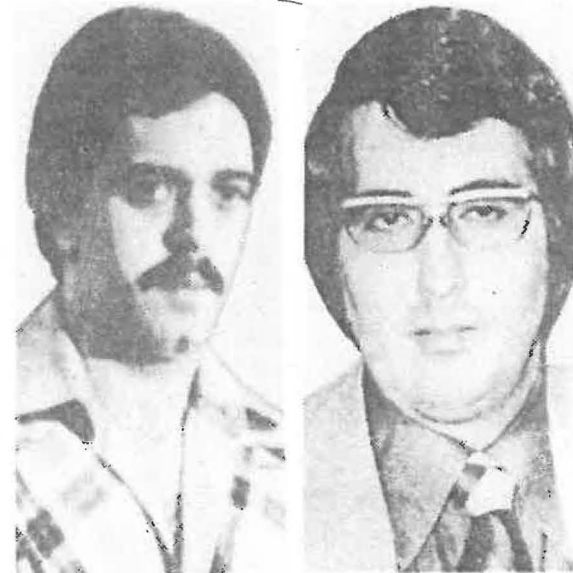
Guillermo Novo Sampol, 38, formerly of Union City, and Alvin Rosa Diaz, were sentenced to consecutive life terms. Novo's brother, Ignacio, 46, a Jersey City shoemaker, was sentenced to five years for lying to a federal grand jury in an attempt to cover-up the assassinations.

Suarez, before the warrant was issued, spent a year in a Washington jail for refusing to testify before the grand jury probing the Letelier and Moffitt murders. Authorities said he was released last April when the term of the grand jury expired.

The Hudson County bombings Sunday night blew out windows and heavily damaged the headquarters of two programs which deal with the Cuban government — the Almacen Pharmacia at 3600 New York Ave., Union City, and the New Jersey Cuban Refugee Program at 4912 Pak Ave., Weehawken. There were no injuries.

During a press conference yesterday, the Rev. Andres Reyes of Holy Family Church, Union City, and E. Jose Negrin, who operates the refugee program, charged that law enforcement authorities have ignored threats on their lives.

"They (police and the FBI) are guilty of neglect.



Virgilio Paz  
Traveling with wife

Jose Suarez  
Wanted in murders

Many lives will be lost if the authorities don't take stronger measures against the terrorists," Father Reyes said.

Union City Police Chief Herman Bolte reacted angrily to the charges. He said police protection was provided "every time it was asked for. There is no truth to their claims."

An FBI agent, who asked not to be identified, said Cuban residents of the two Hudson County communities "know a lot more than they are saying. They have to live here and they are afraid," he said.

The agent said he fears the bombings will continue — as Omega 7 in its phone calls has threatened — "because we are dealing with diehards. Once it starts, terrorism is pretty easy to keep going," he said.