

3 admit Omega 7 bomb plots

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NEW YORK—Three Cuban exiles pleaded guilty yesterday to conspiracy for their part in Omega 7 terrorist bombings and attempted bombings during the past three years, federal authorities said.

The three men are the first defendants implicated in Omega 7 to plead guilty and to enter into cooperation agreements with federal prosecutors investigating the extremist right-wing group.

Meanwhile, Eduardo Arocena, 41, goes to trial in April on charges of conspiring to assassinate a Cuban diplomat and 14 bombings in Manhattan and Miami. The FBI says Arocena has confessed to being "Omar" — commander-in-chief of Omega 7 — but he, through his

lawyers and family, has denied making any confession.

Omega 7, dedicated to the overthrow of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, has claimed responsibility for more than 30 bombings and two murders since 1978.

In a joint written statement, U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani of Manhattan and U.S. Attorney Stanley Marcus of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., announced the guilty pleas.

Jose Ignacio Gonzalez, 41, who is in custody on a perjury charge, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Manhattan before Judge Robert Carter.

Gerardo Necuze, 48, and Justo Rodriguez, 52, both entered guilty pleas in federal court in Fort Lauderdale.

Conspiracy charges against the

trio include two bombings and three attempted bombings in Miami between 1980 to 1983, according to the Giuliani and Marcus. It also charges the three men with helping Arocena hide from federal authorities during the nine months he was a fugitive.

Arocena was arrested in Miami's Little Havana in July. He is being held in lieu of \$750,000 bail in federal prison in Manhattan.

Gonzalez was accused of bombing the Mexican Consulate in Miami in 1981, according to federal prosecutors. Necuze was charged with helping him place the time bomb under a sofa by distracting a receptionist. The explosion damaged the building, but no one was injured.

Gonzalez and Necuze are also accused of placing a time bomb at the office of the Consulate General

of Nicaragua in Miami in 1982, while Rodriguez allegedly acted as a lookout, prosecutors said. That bomb failed to explode.

In addition, Necuze is accused of placing a time bomb at Replica Magazine offices in Miami in 1981. Rodriguez is alleged to have been at the site, prosecutors said. That bomb never went off.

In another bombing, Rodriguez allegedly acted as a lookout when an explosive was placed at the office of the Venezuelan Consulate in 1982, according to the prosecutors.

Gonzalez faces up to 50 years and a \$20,000 fine; Necuze faces 10 years and a \$20,000 fine; and Rodriguez faces 5 years and a \$10,000 fine.

Arocena could face up to life plus 70 years if convicted.