

# 4 Held in Bid To Kill Cuba Envoy in '80

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By JIM MCGEE  
And EDNA BUCHANAN  
Herald Staff Writers

NEW YORK — Four suspected members of Omega 7, an anti-Castro terrorist organization, were in jail in Miami and Newark, N.J., arrested Saturday by FBI agents in the 1980 attempted car bombing of the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations.

Bond is set at \$1 million each.

A fifth man, a Miami exile, was still at large late Saturday.

The arrests are the first major breakthrough after a 2½-year investigation by a joint FBI-New York City Police Terrorist Task Force, which has been probing 30 bombings in 1979 and 1980 that Omega 7 has claimed.

Arrested in Miami was Pedro Remon, 38, of 200 W. Park Dr. in New Jersey, police and FBI agents rounded up Andres Garcia, 43, a longshoreman who lives in Elizabeth, N.J.; Alberto Perez, 27, a liquor store employe, also of Elizabeth; and Eduardo Losada-Fernandez, 46, who works for a fruit company and lives in Newark.

Still sought by the FBI is Eduardo Arocena, 39, of 10001 SW 14th Ter., Miami. Employed by an import-export firm, he is 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 160 pounds, with brown hair and pale blue eyes.

All are charged with interstate transportation of explosives.

Although the FBI refused to comment on whether the men are Omega 7 members, the group did claim responsibility for the March 25, 1980, bombing attempt in New York City.

It was a dud.

The bomb, made of C-4 explosives manufactured for military use, two blasting caps and a detonating cord, was attached to the underside



Eduardo Arocena: Sought by the FBI.

of the car of Raul Roa-Kouri, Cuba's envoy to the United Nations. It fell off the car and was picked up by New York City Sanitation Department workers who tossed it into a garbage truck.

The highly explosive device was defused later by police bomb squad experts.

The State Department denounced the bomb attempt as "cowardly and contemptible," and Washington conveyed regrets to Cuban officials in Havana, Washington and New York.

The men arrested Saturday are charged with transporting the bomb to New York from New Jersey.

In an affidavit filed in the arrest, the FBI revealed that for the first time it has succeeded in developing an informant within the shadowy

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group of Cuban militants the agency has described as the most dangerous terrorist organization in the United States.

The informant, able to describe in detail the construction of the bomb, acted as an accomplice in the attempt, agents said. The informant said that Arocena drove the bomb to New York from New Jersey in a car he rented in Newark. Avis Rent-A-Car records reflect, agents say, that on March 24, 1980, Arocena rented an auto and returned it the next day after driving it 239 miles.

The envoy's car had been under surveillance by the terrorists, agents said, and Remon installed the bomb while the auto was parked and unattended. Losada-Fernandez, they said, provided cover during the placement of the device by parking a van and a truck in positions blocking view of the car.

All the defendants waited, the agents said, then trailed the car when it was driven away. They planned to activate the bomb with a remote-controlled radio signal when the car reached Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive. But the auto was driven, instead, to the vicinity of E. 81st Street in New York, where the bomb fell off.

A chauffeur-bodyguard spotted the plastic-covered device under the car, put it in a trash can in front of the building and rushed off to call police.

While he was gone, a sanitation department crew unknowingly picked up the bomb.

Police retrieved the device from the trash. No one was hurt.

A man who said he was an Omega 7 spokesman called the Associated Press to claim responsibility for the device. He said that the group wanted to kill Roa-Kouri and would continue efforts to assassinate him.

The FBI said that all the defendants lived in New Jersey at the time and that employment records reflect that Arocena and Garcia were absent from their longshoremen jobs at the Port of Elizabeth the day of the bombing attempt.

Telephone toll records reflect numerous calls between the defendants during that period, investigators said.

In another important development, agents said, the unnamed informant said that Remon and Losada-Fernandez were arrested during that same year — 1980 — in Bellevue, N.J., while stealing a car they planned to use in a murder.

FBI arrest records confirm that Remon and Losada-Fernandez were arrested on Sept. 24, 1980, in Bellevue attempting to steal a car. Remon also pleaded guilty to pos-

sessing a 9mm automatic pistol.

There are two unsolved murders for which Omega 7 has claimed responsibility: the September 1980 machine-gun slaying of a Cuban diplomat in New York and the late 1979 assassination of a Cuban exile in New Jersey who favored dialogue with the Castro government.

Losada-Fernandez, Garcia and Perez were arraigned in Manhattan federal court Saturday and ordered held on \$1-million bond each. The bond for Remon, in Dade County Jail, is the same.

If convicted, they face maximum

sentences of 10 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine or both.

All four men arrested are members of the Organization for the Liberation of Cuba (OPLC). The group's president, Ramon Saul Sanchez, however, said he was not acquainted with the fifth man, Arocena, and said Saturday that the fugitive is not an OPLC member.

Asked if the organization is, in fact, Omega 7, he denied it. "We have different tactics and different strategies," said Sanchez, a security company employe who installs burglar alarms.