

Bare plot to bomb Castro on UN visit

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The head of the anti-Fidel Castro terrorist group Omega 7 told the FBI last year that the gang built—but did not get an opportunity to use—a bomb to kill the Cuban dictator when he visited the UN in October 1979, it was revealed in Manhattan Federal Court yesterday.

Eduardo Arocena, 40, the head of the terrorist group, also fingered several colleagues in the bomb plot; an FBI agent testified.

Under questioning by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Tabak, FBI Agent James Lyons testified that Arocena had called the FBI here in September 1982 and said he wanted to talk. A meeting was arranged, Lyons said, and "he (Arocena) said he was the founder of Omega 7 and the leader."

OMEGA 7 HAS claimed responsibility for more than 30 bombings and several killings, most of them in New York City.

Arocena told the FBI that Ramon Sanchez, a fellow Omega 7 member, constructed a bomb that the terrorists planned to use to kill Castro during his UN visit, Lyons testified.

However, Lyons said, Arocena told FBI agents that there was no opportunity to use the bomb.

Arocena, who disappeared after the meeting described by Lyons, was arrested last July at his Miami home and charged with interstate transportation of explosives in connection with the abortive Roa-Kouri bombing.

At yesterday's hearing, U.S. Magistrate Nina Gershon ruled that the government could continue to hold Arocena on those charges without indicting him.