

JAILED CASTRO FOE DENIES BEING AN INFORMER



EDUARDO AROCENA
"I am not Omar."

By MICHAEL SHAIN
ANTI-CASTRO guerrilla
Eduardo Arocena, alleged leader of the most effective terrorist band in America — Omega 7 — yesterday granted an exclusive jailhouse interview with The Post, his first public comment in eight years.

The FBI says Arocena is the infamous "Omar" whose code name has appeared on Omega 7 communiques claiming responsibility for more than 30 bombings in New York and Florida and at least one murder.

The government also claims that he is their main source of information on the group as an informer.

Through friends, Arocena agreed to talk with The Post at the Otisville Corrections Center in upstate New York, where he has been held in lieu of \$1 million bail since his arrest in

Miami last July.

"I never was, have been, or will be a witness," he declared.

"This is the first time I have told my side of the story," he said.

In a two-hour exclusive interview at the prison yesterday, Arocena charged:

- That federal investigators fingered him as the Omega 7 informant "to break me" and to draw attention away from a real "big fish" informant.

- That the U.S. government is cracking down on Omega 7 as part of a "secret agreement" with Castro to "buy peace in Central America."

- That accused Omega 7 members cannot fight back in court without compromising U.S. government officials and activities they had promised to keep secret.

Arocena calls himself, "a civilian fighter in exile."

The Omega 7 bombings — including Avery Fisher Hall in 1978 and the TWA terminal at JFK Airport in 1979 — are "not a good idea in the eyes of most American people," he said.

"But it is the only choice left to people who fight against Castro.

Arocena, 40, is a family man, father of six children from two different marriages, and grandfather of two more. He appeared at the jailhouse interview clean-shaven and dressed in dark blue coveralls.

Arocena admitted "I ran" last year when a federal grand jury sitting in Manhattan wanted to hear what Arocena knew about Omega 7.

"It is a principle with me. I will not testify against my own country-

men. It won't be me who cuts off the hand of the freedom fighters," he said.

He hid for a time in a rooming house in the Little Havana section of Miami, Arocena said, and even left the U.S. for an unidentified Central American country for a while.

Arocena also admitted he spoke "a couple of times" with the FBI while he was in hiding.

"They threatened my family," he explained.

Arocena told of how he would phone agents "late at night and on weekends so they could not trace it."

The FBI men pumped him for information on Omega 7's involvement with a remote-controlled bomb placed under the car of the Cuban ambassador to the UN in 1980 — information Arocena says he did not give them.