

4 Nations Join Cuba to Study Crash It Blames on CIA

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CARACAS, Venezuela, Oct. 20—Representatives of five Caribbean and Latin American governments met in Trinidad today to discuss a division of labor in the escalating probe of a Cubana Airlines bombing Oct. 6.

The crash, which killed 73 persons, 57 of them Cubans, has become the focus of attempts by Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro and the Venezuelan left to prove the existence of a hemisphere-wide attack, orchestrated by the Central Intelligence Agency, against Castro, his government and its friends. The CIA's operatives, according to the theory, are rightist Cuban exiles, and their targets have ranged from Cubana Airlines offices in Panama to former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

Castro's charges against the CIA were detailed in the Oct. 15 Havana speech in which he unilaterally canceled Cuba's anti-hijacking agreement with the United States.

The thrust of Castro's charge relates to the number of recent acts—he listed nine this year—against Cuba. As expressed by the Cuban Embassy's press attache, Pedro Gomez, it is that "so many events, with such sophisticated devices and so many connected people—no one but the CIA would have the facilities to do it."

At the center of the alleged organization is Orlando Bosch, 49, a Cuban refugee leader who remains under arrest in Caracas on unstated charges. Venezuelan authorities were awaiting the outcome of today's Trinidad meet-

ing to decide whether to return Bosch to the United States, where he is charged with parole violation. He was jailed in Miami from 1968 to 1972 for attempting to kill an FBI agent, Ricardo Morales Navarrete.

The countries sending representatives to the Trinidad meeting are Venezuela, host Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados and Cuba.

Cubans and others on both the left and the right insist that Bosch has backing from three sources: the CIA, the Chilean government and anti-Castro Cubans living in Caracas and in Miami. He also has been tolerated by the Venezuelan police, many of whom are themselves staunch anti-Castro Cubans. The conspiracy theorists are working hard to establish links among Bosch, the Letelier assassination and the Oct. 6 plane crash.

According to Venezuelan press reports, denied by police here, Bosch named the brothers Guillermo and Ignacio Novo Samool, both Cuban refugees living in the United States, as those who planted the bomb in Letelier's car Sept. 21. He was targeted, leftist Cubans charge here, as a friend of Castro's who they allege organized Chilean recognition of Cuba six years ago and as a favor to the current right-wing Chilean junta.

According to Castro, Bosch united five anti-Castro groups during a June meeting in Costa Rica under the name United Revolutionary organizations Command—CORU in its Spanish acronym. The group's existence is common knowledge in Miami. Pictures of gatherings of member groups have ap-

peared in the local Spanish-language press.

It was CORU, Cubans here said, which called Miami news organizations to claim responsibility for the plane crash. It was reported at the time that a group called "Condor" claimed responsibility but the Cuban leftists say this was a misunderstanding.

On the other hand, the Costa Rican government said Bosch had been expelled from that country in May, a month before the alleged organizational meeting, for having a false Chilean passport. He reportedly has

travelled with Dominican and Costa Rican passports as well, both false, a fact the conspiracy theorists cite as proof that he has powerful backers.

Chief among Bosch's alleged CIA links is Luis Posada Carriles, a former Venezuelan Security officer and now private detective who was arrested here with Bosch Oct. 14. The Cuban embassy spokesman said Posada worked in the security forces of former dictator Fulgencio Batista and fled to the United States in 1959, when Castro took power.

He allegedly joined the U.S. Army, received training in explosives and

weaponry and was decorated. He then worked with the CIA among the Cuban refugees in Miami, according to the conspiracy line, and later came to Venezuela, where he worked for the government security agency. His detective agency headquarters, police here said, contained high-powered radio equipment and antennae.

In an interview he had in September with the Venezuelan magazine Momento, Posada was identified as a "former employee of the American police."

Trinidad police said they had proof that the Venezuelans being held there

on suspicion of having bombed the Cuban plane, Freddy Lugo and Hernan Ricardo, had made contact with Posada the day of the crash.

"It all fits together very nicely, almost too nicely," said a Venezuelan government official in an interview. The Chilean government, avowedly anti-Communist, has been helping to finance anti-Castro groups here for several years, according to the official and other sources. Prominent Chilean officials have allegedly attended gatherings of the CORU anti-Castro group in Miami, and Bosch and Posada have visited Santiago on several occasions.