

Bosch Is Guilty

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In Plot on Ship

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3 Accused Of Shelling Freighter

By MARGARET CARROLL
Herald Staff Writer

Miami exile leader Dr. Orlando Bosch and eight other Cuban exiles, accused of hatching terrorist plots against ships trading with Communist Cuba, were found guilty Friday in Federal Court.

One plan resulted in a shoot-and-run attack on a Polish freighter docked at Miami's Dodge Island Sept. 16.

THERE WAS stunned silence when the verdict was read, but Mrs. Aimee/Miranda Cruz, a 39-year-old school teacher and the only woman charged in the case, sobbed silently.

Later, when Dr. Bosch, a pediatrician turned revolutionary, and three of his cohorts were taken back to the Dade County Jail, he seemed jubilant and waved "V-for-Victory" signals at photographers.

THEY'LL REMAIN in jail until they post \$50,000 bonds.

Judge William Mehrlens delayed sentencing pending background reports on the defendants.

Indications were that defense attorney Melvyn Greenspahn would file appeals after his clients are sentenced.



—Herald Staff Photo by JOHN PINEDA

Orlando Bosch and Andres Jorge Gonzalez Give Victory Sign
... outside courtroom where they were found guilty

Dr. Bosch, 42, who lives at 297 NW 48th Pl., has been arrested often for anti-Castro ventures but never has been convicted before. Now, he could get up to 28 years in prison plus fines totaling \$23,000.

AFTER SEVEN DAYS of trial, it took the jury about three hours to find all of the defendants guilty of each charge.

While all nine were named in the charge of conspiring to attack the ship, Dr. Bosch, Barbauro Balan Garcia and Jose Diaz Morejon also were accused of firing on the SS Polanica.

Balan, 42, lives at 735 SW First St., and Diaz, 26, at 621 SW Fifth St.

THE OTHER defendants are: Andres Jorge Gonzalez, 37, 51 NW 76th Ave.; Marco Rodriguez Ramos, 24, same address; Jesus Dominguez Benitez, 27, 2460 SW Sixth Ct.; Paulino Gutierrez, 45, and his son, Jorge Luis Gu-

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tierrez Ulla, 20, both of 1029 SW First Ave.

The government said one shell from a 57 mm recoilless rifle was used on the freighter. The Polanica attack — which resulted in an eight-inch dent in the hull — brought a State Department apology to Poland and intensified pressure on the FBI to short-circuit terrorist tactics.

There were three other charges against Dr. Bosch, involving telegrams sent to Mexican, Spanish and British heads of state, threatening them with attacks on ships and planes if they did not stop trading with Fidel Castro's Cuba.

DR. BOSCH, who has openly been the leader of MIRR, the Revolutionary Recovery Insurrection Movement — a Miami-based anti-Castro organization — was accused of being the mysterious "Ernesto," military chief of Cuban Power, a secret terrorist group.

Cuban Power has taken credit for a series of explosions on freighters sailing under Japanese, Spanish and British flags.

At a press conference several weeks ago, Dr. Bosch, who claimed at the time he was acting as Ernesto's spokesman, said the freighter attacks would create, in effect, an economic blockage of Cuba because insurance companies would be loathe to indemnify shipping lines subject to attack by the exiles.

THE GOVERNMENT'S case rested strongly on the testimony of a paid informant, Ricardo Morales Navarrete, who infiltrated Bosch's group and kept the FBI tuned in on all its activities.

Prosecutors introduced tape-recorded conversations between Morales and Bosch, showing that Bosch knew of various explosions on foreign ships. Morales, who was once an intelligence agent for Castro before fleeing Cuba, testified that he turned informant because he did not feel that Bosch's plans would be detrimental to Cuba. He also said Bosch was running a

"phony scheme" that did not represent "the true feelings of the Cuban people in Miami."

Morales said he supplied Bosch with phony dynamite, some of which turned up in a bomb aboard a British freighter that sailed from New Orleans to Miami.

MORALES, who as a U.S.-trained jungle fighter battled pro-Red forces in the Congo in the early 1960s, was a cool, precise witness. He wasn't rattled under cross-examination.

Chubby-cheeked Morales testified that he didn't ask to be paid for his services to the FBI, nor did he get any promises for his undercover work.

However, he was paid slightly over \$2,000 for his work, including \$400 to move for "security reasons." Ever since the band of exiles were indicted in October, Morales has had an FBI guardian angel at his elbow.

Morales, 29, who had a brief career as a CIA agent, is accused of terror tactics himself. He's facing a state court trial for bombing a

Flagler St. firm that ships packages to Cuba.

DURING the Bosch trial, Al Sepe, executive assistant Dade state attorney, called as a defense witness, testified that an FBI agent had asked him to dismiss the bombing charge because of Morales' work in the Bosch probe.

Sepe said there was no decision made on scrubbing the case. However, Morales' trial, which was set last month, was continued.

After court Thursday, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Donald Bierman and Ted Klein issued a press release saying Morales "has performed a great service for the people of the U.S. and for his fellow Cuban nationals."

Long a controversial leader in Miami's Cuban community, Dr. Bosch's individualistic approach to justice-through-revolution has kept federal agents on their toes.

Bosch, a short man whose bespectacled face shows the pouchiness of middle age, has repeatedly said he'd break U.S. law if it helped his anti-Castro fight.

This persistence had a

bizarre touch. In 1964, he was arrested after he hitched a home-made torpedo to his Cadillac and calmly, but cautiously, towed it through Miami streets during rush-hour traffic.

FOR ABOUT a year now, Bosch's name had been in a publicity limbo.

But then the clandestine Cuban Power organization emerged and on Sept. 20, the shadow-man "Ernesto" donned a hood and announced at a press conference that he was heading up a \$1 million drive to push the Reds out of Cuba. Ernesto also announced that Bosch, who was not seen at the conference, would be his spokesman.

A week later Dr. Bosch called his own press conference, accepted the appointment, and announced that companies trading with Castro would soon have "sky high" insurance rates because of Cuban Power sabotage.

He also announced that there was a possibility he'd go to jail, and added: "I don't care about the consequences."