

TALLAHASSEE *Miami Herald 3-24-89-ZB*

Florida official makes plea for Bosch

Florida Secretary of State Jim Smith urged U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in a letter Thursday to "carefully consider" the possible deportation of anti-Castro militant Orlando Bosch.

"There is strong feeling among Florida's Cuban refugees that the deportation of Mr. Bosch by the [Immigration and Naturalization Service] would place him in danger of reprisal by Castro supporters," said Smith's letter. "His wife and daughters are respected residents of Miami. Bosch is in poor health and would like to live his remaining years with his family in Miami. The family does not believe a safe destination outside of the U.S. for Bosch can be found."

Bosch, who arrived illegally in Miami from Venezuela in February 1988, served 11 years in prison in Venezuela on charges of involvement in the bombing of a Cuban jetliner. The charges finally were dropped.