

## **Immigration ruling on Bosch could come today, Ros-Lehtinen says**

A ruling on the immigration status of anti-Castro activist Orlando Bosch may come as early as today, state Sen. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen said late Thursday night.

Ros-Lehtinen, who has spearheaded a campaign to drum up community support for the 62-year-old pediatrician, said a source in the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service told her that Southern Regional Commissioner Stephen Martin has discounted the most serious charges made against Bosch, that he was involved in terrorist activities and represented a threat to national security.

Mario Ortiz, a spokesman for Martin in Dallas, said Thursday afternoon that no ruling has been made on the case, although a decision was expected "very soon." He said an announcement might be made today.

Martin could not be reached for comment late Thursday on Ros-Lehtinen's information.

Bosch has been imprisoned at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in South Dade since Feb. 16, 1988, when he arrived at Miami International Airport from Venezuela, where he had spent 11 years in prison. Bosch had been charged with masterminding the bombing of a Cuban jetliner in 1976. He was acquitted three times of the charges in Venezuela.

However, Ros-Lehtinen said in a phone interview from Tallahassee that her source says that Martin will ask Bosch's attorneys to respond to charges that Bosch entered the country illegally.

"It's pretty good news," Ros-Lehtinen said, noting that many Cubans enter the country illegally and are later allowed to stay in the United States.

Last May, the INS issued a temporary ruling that Bosch should be excluded from the country, a process similar to deportation but with less appeal rights. INS lawyers charged that Bosch was involved with terrorist groups responsible for multiple bombings in South and Central America.

Ros-Lehtinen, R-Miami, said that if it's true that Martin has rejected those allegations, then it's likely that Bosch should be eventually released pending a final ruling by INS Commissioner Alan Nelson in Washington.

"We're optimistic," she said.