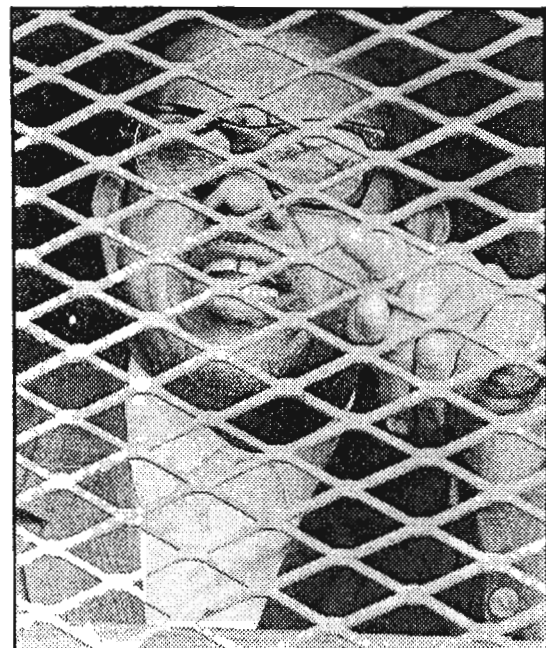


THE BOSCH ODYSSEY



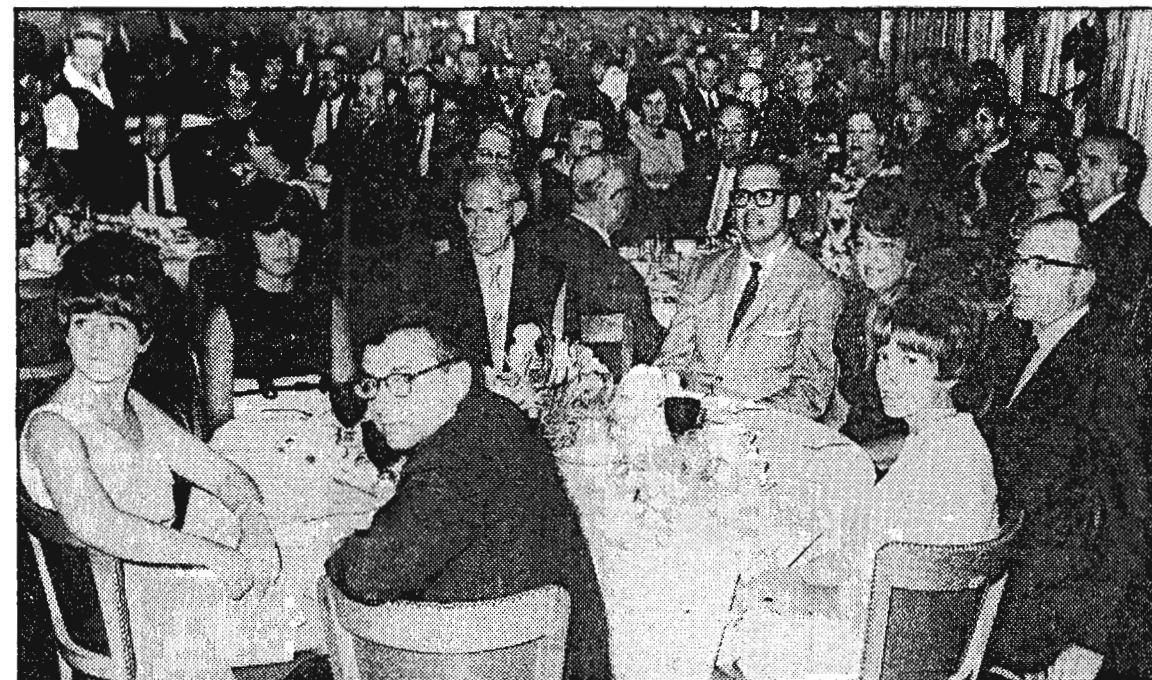
Miami Herald

JAIL BOUND: Bosch shouts through a screen after his arraignment in 1968 in freighter attack.



ALBERT COYA / Miami Herald Staff

FAMILY'S PLEA: Bosch's family meets with reporters after his release from Venezuelan prison in 1987. From left are daughter Myriam, lawyer Francisco Leandro Mora, wife Adriana, Dr. Alberto Hernandez, son William and Dr. Armando Cruz.



Miami Herald

VICTORY CELEBRATION: Friends put on a dinner party for Bosch and then-wife Myriam in August 1967 to celebrate his acquittal on an extortion charge.



Associated Press

IN CUSTODY: After 1988 arraignment in Miami.

Passion for free Cuba drove Bosch to extreme

6-29-89-1B

"My father is like a man with two women: a wife he loves and a mistress he is passionate with. He loves his family, but Cuba is his passion." — Orlando Bosch's daughter Myriam Bosch

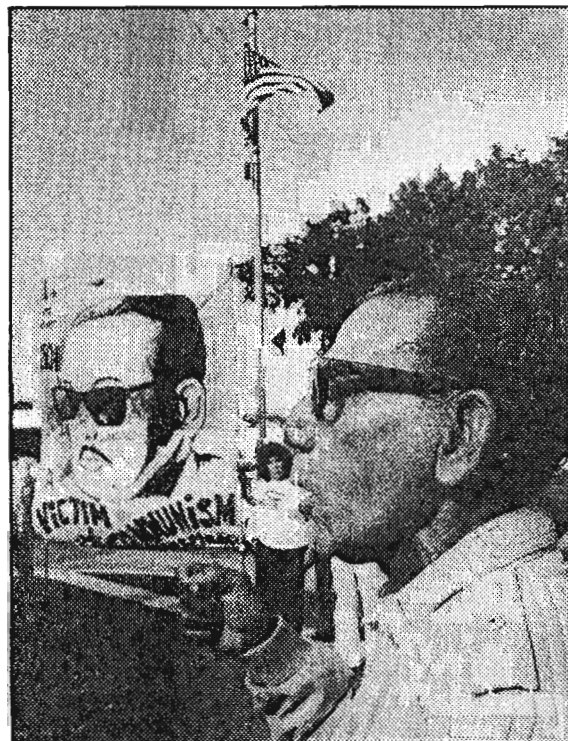
By **HEATHER DEWAR**
Herald Staff Writer

For 31 years, Orlando Bosch, the baby doctor with explosive dreams, declared his passion for Cuba, his willingness to fight for her.

With bombast and bazookas, swigging antacid to calm a nervous stomach, he fought to free his beloved Cuba from Fidel Castro "by any means, of course including violence.

"We will invade the Cuban embassies and we will murder the Cuban diplomats and we will hijack the Cuban planes until Castro begins to deal with us," he once declared.

PLEASE SEE **BOSCH, 5B**



C.M. GUERRERO / Miami Herald Staff

FERVENT BACKER: Cuban exile labor leader Prisciliano Falcon rallies for Bosch in 1988.

Passion for free Cuba

BOSCH, FROM 1B

A THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1989
THE MIAMI HERALD 5B

drove militant

But that was before a Cuban airliner blew up in the Caribbean sky, killing 73; before he was accused in the plot; before the Venezuelan government locked him in a cell for 11 years; before his latest imprisonment in Southwest Dade's Metropolitan Correctional Center.

Now, a prematurely aged 62, plagued by angina, perforated ulcers and prostate trouble, he has forsown his old rhetoric:

"Enough, say I, of complacent and obsolete objectives, enough of blind rage, unrestrained ambitions, indiscriminate passion," says the new Orlando Bosch.

"I am the first one to recognize in the past I have violated certain laws of the United States in my desperate fight for the freedom of Cuba. . . . If I cannot live in a free and democratic Cuba, then I want to live in the United States, where I can be a contributing member of society and where I will abide by its laws."

The U.S. government does not believe him. Bosch has been a terrorist, and is likely to remain so, says Acting Associate Attorney General Joe D. Whitley.

"His actions have been those of a terrorist, unfettered by laws and human decency," Whitley wrote in a deportation order June 23, 1989. "His personal history indicates that he will take violent action against any target if he believes it will advance his cause."

And unless a federal judge rules otherwise, Bosch will be deported sometime after July 14 — as soon as the United States can find a country willing to take him.

Deportation is a death warrant, proclaim his lawyers. Despite his long years roaming Latin America unharmed, Bosch is convinced that Fidel Castro, his enemy for more than three decades, will stop at nothing to assassinate him. Only in Miami, Bosch says, is he safe.

Orlando Bosch Avila's life story is a tangled skein of legends, facts, murky reports from shadowy government informants, and rumors — some of them created by Bosch himself. The definitive biography has not been written, and may never be. Parts of it only the Castro government knows.

The rivalry between Castro and Bosch began when both were big men on campus at the University of Havana, class of '53.

Castro, 26, was the law school's student body president and Bosch, just five days younger, was president of the medical school student body. Both detested the same man: Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Both were fire-breathers.

Students came up with a nickname for Bosch: "Piro," short for pyromaniac, because of his "fiery and explosive temper," said a classmate and longtime supporter, Dr. Alberto Hernandez. Even then, he was plagued by bad nerves and a tense stomach.

After graduation, Bosch went to Toledo, Ohio, for a pediatric internship. Castro went to the mountains of Cuba to plot a revolution.

In 1958, Bosch was in self-imposed exile in Miami. His quickening obsession with revolutionary

politics led him to a medical practice in Cuba's Santa Clara province. He vaccinated children for polio and, in his spare time, organized clandestine support for Castro's 26th of July movement.

But in June 1960, less than 18 months after Castro came to power, Bosch turned against him. He returned to Miami with his young wife, a fellow medical school graduate, and their four small children.

Bosch had a 60-day tourist visa. According to the U.S. government, he was never granted permission to stay.

He took a job as assistant director of Abbey Hospital in Coral Gables, settled into a modest Little Havana house, bought a beat-up blue Cadillac. On weekends, he snacked on cottage cheese and fruit cocktail and watched his favorite TV show, *Mission: Impossible*.

That same year he was fired for storing explosives on hospital grounds.

His outwardly placid life fell victim to his obsession with *La Causa*, the anti-Castro cause. His wife supported the family, now grown to three daughters and two sons.

Suffering from bleeding ulcers, squinting through bottle-thick glasses, he slept barely two hours a night, devoting himself to MIRR, the Insurrectional Revolutionary Recovery Movement, one of several groups he organized.

"Castro knows that our men are in the Sierra del Escambray, waiting. It won't be long before we strike," he said in 1960.

But Bosch was a loner by nature. His men were never many, and never reliable, said his former lawyer, Melvin Greenspahn.

"He always had around him one or two people who were trustworthy and truly dedicated, but beyond that the others were questionable," Greenspahn once said. "I think that not all of them were dedicated patriots. A lot were hoodlums."

There were attacks on sugar mills and factories in Cuba, each announced with triumphant flourish. Then the arrests, some almost comical, began.

1964: Miami police caught Bosch towing a homemade, radio-operated torpedo through downtown in rush-hour traffic.

1965: Federal agents raided a house near Orlando and charged Bosch and five others with trying to smuggle 18 aerial bombs out of the country.

April 1966: Collier County sheriff's deputies, looking for an escaped convict at a roadblock on the Tamiami Trail, stopped Bosch's blue Caddy. Inside the trunk they found six aerial bombs packed with dynamite. Bosch told them he was headed up the coast "to a secret base where there was a boat we could use to bomb Castro."

December 1966: Federal prosecutors charged Bosch with trying to extort \$21,000 from a fellow exile for anti-Castro operations.

But none of the charges stuck — until Sept. 16, 1968, when Bosch drove the Caddy to Dodge Island, and he and his cohorts aimed a 57-millimeter bazooka at the Polish freighter *Polanica*.

The shell hit the ship's armor-plated side, denting it, and splashed harmlessly into the water. A comrade-in-arms, Ricardo "Monkey" Morales, testified against Bosch. A federal judge sentenced him to 10 years in prison.

Orlando and Myriam Bosch were divorced while he was in prison. His lawyer once blamed Bosch's single-minded devotion to the cause for the breakup of the marriage.

"He had gotten to a point where his family, his children, the responsibilities of normal life, were secondary to him," Greenspahn said. "He was so totally immersed in his political movement that nothing else was of any concern to him."

Three years into his prison term, Bosch told a parole board he was casting off his old obsession. "I have concluded that the international situation, and my health, and the needs of my family do not permit me . . . to dedicate any more time to political activities," he said. The board paroled him in December 1972.

In early 1974, someone gunned down exile leader Jose de la Torre as he watched television in his Coral Gables home. Bosch said he had nothing to do with it, but added he was glad the man was dead.

A murder investigation subpoena landed on Bosch's doorstep. On April 12, 1974, he left the country.

His motives were patriotic, Bosch explained years later. "When I came out on parole I was feeling at that time that I should keep serving my country and my cause. I did not want to go to jail again. So, thinking that I must keep fighting the Communist dictatorship of my country, I should go to another place."

The place was Venezuela. Intelligence officers there knew Bosch had arrived when someone threw a stick of dynamite over a wall during a meeting of Cuban and Venezuelan diplomats.

Within hours, agents found him. They made a deal: Give up your arsenal and leave quietly. Bosch led them to an apartment full of weaponry and explosives. They confiscated it, and gave him a fake passport.

Bosch moved to Santiago, Chile — safe haven for anti-Communists under the regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Bosch lived in a military safe house in Santiago. Years later, the Pinochet government sent a memo to U.S. officials saying Bosch entered the country under the name

Pedro Peña on Dec. 3, 1974. Secret police surveillance turned up no trace of anti-Castro activities, the Chilean memo said. Bosch "lived quietly as an artist."

The U.S. government paints a different portrait, accusing Bosch of sending bombs to Cuban embassies in Lima, Madrid, Ottawa and Buenos Aires. The bombs injured an embassy employee in Lima and a postal worker in Madrid.

Exactly what Bosch did between 1974 and 1976 is unclear. Just six days ago the Justice Department, relying on raw FBI reports and other intelligence information, labeled Bosch a "resolute and unwavering" terrorist. But an Immigration and Naturalization Service regional commissioner, reviewing the same 711 pages, found them unconvincing. The government refuses to make them public.

The Justice Department says only that Bosch was involved in the August 1975 attempted assassination of Emilio Aragonés, the Cuban ambassador to Argentina. Although four men attacked his car with machine guns, he escaped unhurt. Bosch was also involved in the September 1976 bombing of the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala City, the government claims.

Bosch used Chile as a base for travel. In January 1976, his second wife, Adriana, gave birth to a daughter, Karin.

A month later, police arrested the new father in a new country: Costa Rica, where he was traveling as Hector Avanzo on a phony Chilean passport.

That was when U.S. newspapers reported a Bosch plot to kill then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, due in Costa Rica five days later.

Secret Service agents questioned Bosch. Costa Rican officials questioned him, too, and said he had no plans to kill Kissinger — he was gunning for someone else, Andres Pascal Allende, the nephew of Marxist Chilean president Salvador Allende.

Costa Rica, like Venezuela before it, offered to extradite Bosch to the United States. But INS declined. It didn't want to make a martyr of Bosch, one official said later.

Bosch was deported to the Dominican Republic. There, in June 1976, Cuban anti-Castro groups held a summit conference in the town of Bonaó. They created CO-RU, the United Revolutionary Command. Bosch later said he was its founder.

Bosch went back to Venezuela, arriving on Sept. 23, 1976. Although he traveled on another phony passport, his identity was no secret. A socialite threw a fund-raising party in his honor that drew 100 people and \$2,200.

Bosch shared an apartment at a