

# Rivkind: Bosch letter shows he's 'extremist'

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Orlando Bosch's lawyer wishes Bosch hadn't done it. Bosch's wife admits it wasn't "diplomatic." An immigration director who once might have freed Bosch said his thinking is "extremist."

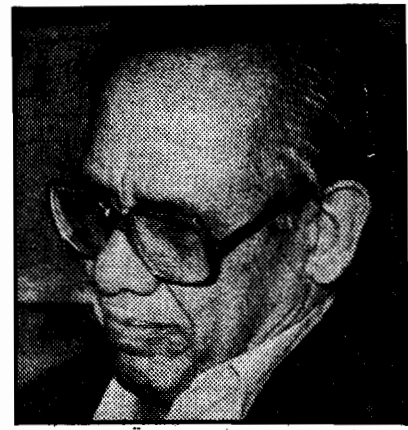
The open letter that anti-Castro militant Orlando Bosch mailed from prison this week to Miami immigration chief Perry Rivkind may have hurt Bosch's chances to avoid deportation.

Bosch, who has sworn in immigration statements during the past two years that he has repudiated violence as a means of overthrowing Fidel Castro, had a different tone in a letter mailed this week to Rivkind,

director of the Miami district of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"Cubans are extremely tired of being given lessons on good conduct and morality, and now they are shoving pacifism down our throats as the best weapon against terrorism and crime. But they forget that even Christ raised a whip against the transgressors of the faith," Bosch wrote.

Bosch was jailed for 11 years in Venezuela, but ultimately acquitted of charges he planned the bombing of a Cuban jetliner in 1976. In his letter, he cited Thomas Jefferson and Winston Churchill to argue that the death of 73 passengers on the Cuban plane was part of the "hard



**ORLANDO BOSCH:** Sent letter to INS condoning bombing.

reality of war."

"Churchill said that wars are, unfortunately, a competition of cruelties. And Thomas Jefferson said the tree of liberty has to be unfailingly watered with the blood of tyrants, heroes and innocents, which are its

PLEASE SEE BOSCH, 4B

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**BOSCH, FROM 1B**

natural fertilizers."

Although Bosch said he was not involved in the Cuban jetliner bombing, he said in the letter that his initial dismay over the bombing changed "diametrically" when he read the plane carried Cuban military and state security agents.

"The fact that innocent people died there, although very regrettable, is governed by hard realities of the hypothetical laws of war and the concepts of those two great men," Bosch wrote.

The letter was in response to a comment Rivkind made to The Herald Monday that he would have favored deporting Bosch had he known that Bosch supported the bombing of the Cuban jetliner.

Rivkind said Friday his office has received many calls commenting on the letter, which was published in full Wednesday in El Nuevo Herald. Most of the callers are shocked Bosch would attempt to justify the jetliner bombing, Rivkind said.

"There is no justification whatsoever for the murder of innocent people, irrespective of the cause, and irrespective of whatever ethnic group," Rivkind said. "There ain't no justification, whatsoever."

Bosch's lawyer, Raoul Cantero, said Friday he would have preferred that Bosch had not sent the letter, but added that Bosch's thoughts about the jetliner bombing are not

the issue in his appeal of the government's deportation order. The lawyers are arguing that the U.S. attorney general's office overstepped its bounds by reversing previous orders from top immigration officials, who ruled that Bosch should have a hearing on his request for political asylum.

"I think Dr. Bosch was just being honest about what his feelings were at that time," Cantero said. "It's not a criminal act, it's a free statement of speech."

At a press conference Friday in Little Havana, Bosch's wife Adriana showed faded Havana newspaper clips concerning a Sept. 5, 1963, explosion in the Cuban city of Santa Clara. A CIA memo made public last week said that a man and three children were killed when a bombing mission over Cuba, organized by Bosch, accidentally dropped bombs.

Adriana Bosch contended the explosion was the result of Cuban artillery firing at the planes, which she said were not Bosch's. She cited clippings that said the three children were wounded, not killed.

Regarding the Bosch letter, Adriana said it was typical of her husband's frankness.

"He gave his opinion. He was frank in saying this," Adriana Bosch said.

"Diplomatic? Perhaps not," she said. "My husband is not diplomatic."