

# CIA says Bosch led Cuba bombing runs

## A strike in '63 killed 4, papers charge

By DAVID HANCOCK

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Orlando Bosch organized air strikes against Cuba in the early 1960s, including one that accidentally killed three children and their father inside their home in 1963, according to CIA documents released this week about the anti-Castro mili-

tant jailed in Miami.

The CIA information is part of previously confidential documents in the Bosch case file that Justice Department officials reviewed before deciding to deport Bosch on June 23. Bosch is appealing that ruling.

The heavily censored CIA docu-

ments, with entire pages of blacked out information, were among 1,700 pages released to Bosch's attorneys Tuesday.

The package includes FBI and CIA reports about Bosch-led bombings of Cuba during the 1960s;

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## CIA accuses Bosch of air strikes

### Says he organized Cuban bomb runs

BOSCH, FROM 1A

statements from federal officials urging that he be barred from the country, and Spanish-language transcripts of Bosch's trials in Venezuela on charges of masterminding the bombing of a Cuban jetliner in 1976.

The file also includes accusations previously published by the Cuban government that Bosch was involved in more than 90 terrorist acts — bombings, kidnappings and assassinations — from 1968 to 1980.

The material was released to Bosch attorney Raoul Cantero after months of legal wrangling. Bosch's family and attorneys have argued that it was impossible to defend Bosch properly against confidential information. The government is still withholding hundreds of pages of information authorities say are classified.

The CIA reports on Bosch's activities in the early 1960s indicate he coordinated several successful air strikes over Cuba, and had ambitious plans for a two-pronged invasion of the island.

#### 'Decided to dump the bombs'

One air strike by Bosch's terrorist group, the Insurreccional Movement of Revolutionary Recovery, known by its Spanish acronym MIRR, accidentally claimed four lives on Sept. 5, 1963, according to the CIA.

"The bombing of Santa Clara in Las Villas province, which took place on Sept. 5, 1963, was accomplished by members of Bosch's group. They appeared to be quite excited and at the same time distressed at the failure of their operation. They had been trying since Sept. 4 to bomb the Shell refinery in Havana but had been repelled by anti-aircraft fire. When they were fired upon over Santa Clara, they decided to dump the bombs which, unfortunately, hit a house and killed the owner and three children."



**DETAINED:** Orlando Bosch has deportation hearing Sept. 14.

The CIA reports, labeled "unevaluated" and "tentative," say Bosch reportedly funded a successful bombing raid on Cuba on Aug. 14, 1963 with money allegedly received from a wealthy Cuban exile named Chiri Mendoza.

The reports link Bosch and the MIRR to other terrorist plans — which may or may not have occurred — including:

- A two-part plan financed by Bosch to attack a Cuban ship as a diversionary action while two landing forces of soldiers landed in the Oriente and Escambray areas in Cuba in March 1963.

- A planned air strike against Cuba in the fall of 1963.

- Another air strike on Jan. 25-26, 1964, using homemade bombs shipped by MIRR to the Bahamas.

- Plans by Bosch to buy two P-51 fighter planes to bomb Havana refineries, to replace two MIRR planes that were too slow.

Bosch, a 62-year-old pediatrician in frail health, has remained jailed for the past 18 months at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in South Dade while his family fights his deportation.

#### No recent evidence

From 1968 until his parole in 1972, Bosch served time in U.S. prisons for firing a bazooka at a Polish freighter in the Port of Miami and conspiring to plant bombs in foreign vessels whose governments traded with Cuba.

Bosch attorney Cantero said Thursday that although some of the material about Bosch's activities in the 1960s and 70s is damaging, the government has yet to produce hard evidence that Bosch was involved in terrorism in the past ten years.

"It's certainly damaging in the sense that he was doing these things," Cantero said. "But there was a war going on. They were fighting communism. Bosch has repudiated this type of violence."

Bosch was jailed in Venezuela from 1976-87 on charges of masterminding the 1976 bombing of a Cuban jetliner that killed 73 people. He was acquitted in Venezuela in one military and two civil trials, and released in late 1987. He entered the United States the following February, and has been jailed since.

The government material released Tuesday also includes a 1987 letter by a former FBI special agent in Miami, George Davis, who urged then-Secretary of State George Schultz to stop Bosch from entering this country from Venezuela:

"My colleagues and I in Miami conducted exhaustive investigations of Bosch from the time of his arrival in about 1960 as a Cuban exile until he departed on a forged passport while out of prison on parole . . . He was regarded by the FBI and other law enforcement agencies as Miami's number one terrorist."

"Prior to his [1968] conviction, Bosch, through a combination of eloquence, deceit and intimidation, had established a reputation in the Cuban exile community as a dedicated anti-Castro leader," Davis wrote.

The government material also includes numerous newspaper clippings, including interviews Bosch gave in the 1970s in the United States and abroad in which he was quoted as claiming responsibility for bombings at the Cuban Embassy in Peru on Feb. 4, 1974; the Panamanian Embassy in Caracas on Oct. 10, 1974, and the Cuban Venezuelan Institute of Friendship in Caracas.

During the past year, Bosch has told immigration authorities and the U.S. Justice Department that he never took responsibility for the bombings. He said the media pinned them on him because he was a well-known anti-Castro activist.

"I admit in the 1970s he had a very big mouth," Cantero said.

A hearing on Bosch's deportation is scheduled for Sept. 14.