Bosch held, takes credit for blasts

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On the eve of his just-confirmed arrest in Caracas earlier this week, fugitive anti-Castro terrorist Orlando Bosch wrote a letter taking responsibility for two recent bombings in that Venezuelan city.

Bosch's note to this writer vowed to carry out missions inside Cuba soon and to continue the "punishment" of those aiding Fidel Castro.

"All of the tyrant's accomplices will continue getting our punishment, inspired in the old saying, 'He who is a friend of our enemy becomes also our enemy,'" Bosch wrote.

The one-time pediatrician turned-revolutionary is now leader of Accion Cubana, dedicated to the bombing of Castro missions around the world.

Bosch's arrest apparently took place Monday but was kept secret by Venezuelan police. His collaborators in Caracas informed Cuban exile friends here of the arrest and it was confirmed today by U.S. officials.

"The only information we have is that he has been arrested," an FBI spokesman said here.

The FBI has been seeking Bosch for jumping his federal parole here last June. U.S. authorities are expected to try to extradite Bosch to finish a

10-year jail term for a bazooka attack on a Polish ship in Miami in 1968. He served five years before being paroled.

He is also wanted for questioning in the slaying of Cuban exile leader Jose Elias de Torriente at the latter's Coral Gables home last April. Bosch denied any role in the slaying but called Torriente a traitor to the people.

When he fled Miami last
June, Bosch said he was going
underground to lead an international war against Castro.



This week's letter from Bosch broke his self-imposed silence on his activities since then. In it, on behalf of Accion Cubana, he claimed credit for the bombings in Caracas of the Panamanian Embassy and the Cuban Venezuelan Institute of Friendship.

No one was injured in either incident but both buildings were damaged.

Bosch said the Oct. 10 embassy bombing was "a punishment to the opportunistic dictator Torrijos (Omar Torrijos, leader of Panama's military junta) who for a very long time has been trading and secretly collaborating with the tyrant Fidel Castro."

The second bombing claimed by Bosch took place Oct. 30. as two Communist Cuba labor leaders, Roberto Veiga Menendez and Jesus Escandell, finished addressing the Venezuelan members of the Institute of Friendship and were about to offer a toast to mutual friendship.

Meantime, Venezuelan officials are reportedly keeping Bosch under tight security for fear that his Accion Cubana group may try to free him.