

Right-wing Cuban released from jail

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MIAMI — Orlando Bosch, a right-wing Cuban who U.S. officials believe is responsible for dozens of bombings aimed at the Castro government, was released from jail here yesterday in a deal with the U.S. government.

Bosch, who had been jailed on charges of entering the United States illegally, was tried and acquitted three times in Venezuela on charges stemming from a 1976 explosion that killed 73 people aboard a Cuban passenger airliner.

Despite the acquittals, U.S. officials have maintained that they believe he took part in the bombing.

U.S. officials also say that Bosch carried out dozens of bombings against Cuban offices and supporters in Latin America. Bosch has defended his actions as justified blows in a war to liberate Cuba from communism.

In the deal with the U.S. government, Bosch agreed to 14 conditions, including that he would remain in his home in Miami except from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; that his whereabouts be electronically monitored; that he keep a log of visitors; that his phone

may be tapped; that he submit to polygraph tests; and that he agree to searches of his house and person.

The release of Bosch, a former pediatrician who was born in Cuba, represents a sharp reversal by U.S. officials.

Last year the Justice Department tried to deport him, citing a Federal Bureau of Investigation report that asserted he "has repeatedly expressed and demonstrated a willingness to cause indiscriminate injury and death."

However, Dan Eramian, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said "a review" had led to the decision to release Bosch on limited parole. He refused to elaborate.

The Bush administration has been lobbied heavily by South Florida Republicans who have close ties to Cubans here and who wanted Bosch freed, including the President's son, Jeb Bush, a Republican Party leader here.

Eramian said that the Justice Department would still prefer to deport Bosch as an undesirable alien, but that no country except Cuba would take him. Cuba long has sought to have Bosch returned for trial on the



Associated Press

Orlando Bosch is embraced by his wife, Adriana, after his release yesterday.

airliner bombing, but Eramian said the government would not extradite him because it did not believe he would receive a fair trial or humane treatment there.

The agreement includes a specific pledge from Bosch renouncing terrorist acts.

At a news conference, Bosch appeared unbowed and unrepentant. He defended his campaign against the Cuban government as legitimate.

Bosch, who has been in jail for two years, called the deal that he signed with the Justice Department "ridiculous" and "a farce" and he promised to talk to friends and supporters during the three hours that he is allowed to leave his home each day.