

Negrin shot in Union City

Pro-Castro leader murdered

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Dispatch Photo by Bill Bayer

A photographer from the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office snaps pictures of the scene where Eulalio Negrin was gunned down yesterday morning outside 711 10th St., Union City.

By KAREN YAREMKO

Eulalio Jose Negrin, considered a traitor by many of his fellow Cuban exiles because of his willingness to negotiate with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, was machine-gunned to death yesterday morning on a quiet Union City street.

Police said Negrin, 38, was getting into his car in front of 711 10th St. at 9:50 a.m. when two masked men drove up and began shooting, wounding him three times in the head, once in the shoulder, and once in the side. Negrin's 12-year-old son, Richard, watched the assassination from inside the car, according to police. Police said the boy was not injured.

The Associated Press received a telephone call yesterday evening from a man who said he was a member of Omega 7, the anti-Castro terrorist group. The man claimed responsibility for the shooting.

"We will continue with these executions until we have eliminated all of the traitors living in this country," the Spanish-accented man said.

Omega 7 is an anti-Communist group that has claimed responsibility for several bombings in the metropolitan area.

Negrin was carrying \$7,400 in cash

when he was slain, police sources said. Furthermore, he was wearing a bullet-proof vest and carrying a handgun, sources said. But apparently, he did not have a chance to get to the gun, source said.

"It was a hit," said one policeman in describing the murder.

Police and FBI agents, who are working on the case together, refused to say whether they have any suspects. No arrests have yet been made.

On March 25, the storefront of the New Jersey Cuban Association, which Negrin headed, was bombed. Omega 7 claimed responsibility for that incident and one at Kennedy International Airport in Queens on the same day. There were no injuries in the bombing at the Almacen Espanol, 3604 New York Ave., Union City, although four persons were injured at the airport.

At the time of the bombings, Negrin said he had received death threats because he was a member of the Committee of 75 which negotiated with Castro in 1978 for the release of 3,600 political prisoners. He expressed fear that every member of the committee was in danger.

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In May, Carlos Munoz, another committee member, was shot to death in Puerto Rico.

Negrin called a reporter for The Dispatch last week to say he feared for his life. He said he had gotten more death threats recently, including a letter purportedly from Omega 7 which said he had only about two months to live.

Leaders of the local Cuban community generally refused to talk about the assassination yesterday. They even declined to discuss the effect of Negrin's death on the community.

Rev. Andres Reyes, another committee member, yesterday did not want to talk about whether he feared reprisals against himself for his role as a member of the negotiating committee in light of Negrin's murder. He would only say: "I think the whole community is aware of what is being done. These men are armed and that (knowledge) is affecting the whole community."

Armando Santana, the president of the anti-Castro Cuban Nationalist Movement (CNM), could not be reached for comment. Santana and Negrin have had numerous run-ins because of their ideological differences.

Alberto Chumaceiro, a CNM member, said: "I know nothing about it. I don't want to comment."

Dr. Hector Wiltz, president of the Bloque De Organisation Revolutionares, also appeared reluctant to discuss the as-

sassination. "Maybe it was done by the communists. I don't know. He (Negrin) was very far from our group. We didn't like him."

Negrin's daughter was sitting outside Union City's detective bureau yesterday, crying. But she did not want to talk to reporters.

Meanwhile, police and FBI agents are trying to fit together the pieces.

They have two eyewitnesses who said the slayers drove off in a silver car with a red top. They did not reveal a license number— but would not rule out the possibility they had one.

Although police said Negrin was still alive when they reached the scene of the shooting, he could not speak to them. Negrin was pronounced dead on arrival at Riverside General Hospital in Secaucus, they said.

Police refused to reveal who Negrin was visiting on 10th Street. He lived at 3804 New York Ave., Union City. They said that information had a bearing on the investigation.

Police noted that the murder seemed to be carefully planned because the street was nearly deserted on a quiet Sunday morning. They added that at the time of the shooting, police shifts were changing, meaning most patrol cars were back at headquarters and not in the area.

Police said Negrin's son, who was quickly handed over to relatives, was badly shaken up. "You can imagine what any boy would feel seeing his father shot down," one officer commented.



Eulalio Negrin

Negotiated for prisoners' release