

Cuban Exile Arrested in Mexico

Mia News (F) 4B col 1 26 July 76

Says Kidnap Order Came by Phone

A Cuban exile arrested in Mexico Saturday night and charged with the attempted kidnapping of a Castro government official and the murder of his companion has confessed to the killing and told Mexican authorities he received his orders in an anonymous call, possibly from Miami.

Orestes Ruiz Hernandez, 28, told Mexican police he belongs to a secret Miami anti-Castro organization in which members don't know each other. He said that in the anonymous call he was ordered to kidnap or eliminate the Cuban consul in Merida, Mexico, Daniel Ferrer Fernandez.

Ferrer narrowly escaped death Friday when he was approached by two men as he went to get his car from a repair shop. However, Artanan Diaz, a young fishing boat mechanic who was with the consul, was killed.

A Mexican police spokesman said that after a paraffin test which proved Ruiz Hernandez fired a pistol, the Cuban confessed to the killing.

Ferrer told police he was confronted by the gunmen and instruct-

ed to accompany them to their car, but he said he struck one of the would-be captors and ran for safety. Police said Ferrer was chased by Ruiz Hernandez, who fired two shots at the consul but missed both times.

Police said Ruiz Hernandez saw Artanan Diaz struggling with the other gunman and fired his gun in Diaz's face.

"We found Ruiz Hernandez seated in the airport restaurant hiding

behind a newspaper," said Mexican police officer Pedro Alamillo. He said Ruiz Hernandez was apparently waiting for a flight to Mexico City and carried an expired passport issued to another person.

Ruiz Hernandez was transferred from Merida police headquarters to a Mexican federal prison to await his trial. Under Mexican law, he can get up to 30 years in prison for homicide but can obtain conditional liberty after serving one third of his sentence.

DUPLICATE