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Cuban group vows a suit over FBI's blast claims

By FRED KERBER

The head of an anti-Castro Cuban group said yesterday that FBI accusations naming two members as possible suspects in Monday night's Kennedy International Airport and Hudon County bombings were a "publicity stunt to cover up FBI ineptness in catching those responsible."

Armando Santana, leader of the New York-New Jersey chapter of the Cuban Nationalist Movement, said his group plans to take legal action against agent Edward Foley, head of the FBI's New York bureau criminal division.

Foley claimed the bombings were the work of the anti-Castro terrorist group, Omega 7. He named Virgilio Pablo Paz, 26, and Jose Dionisio Suarez, 39, as possible suspects. Both Paz and Suarez are members of the Cuban Nationalist Movement.

"There is no solid proof or evidence that they are Omega 7 members," Santana said. "We've been in touch with our lawyers and intend to start legal action on Friday for the irresponsible statements made by Foley."

Santana denied that his group was involved in Monday's bombing but said the CNM "supports any type of struggle to rid our country of a regime that has kept our people in slavery for 20 years."

Santana served two years after pleading guilty to charges tying him to the 1976 bombing of the New York Academy of Music where a pro-Castro rally was being held. "I prefer to say I have a 'patriotic record' rather than a criminal record," he said.

Police have said the three bombings Monday night were related. Four baggage handlers were injured when a bomb concealed in a suitcase exploded moments before it was to have been loaded on a TWA flight to California. Bombs also ripped through two Cuban-owned buildings Monday night—the El Amaccen Espanol Pharmacy in Union City and the Jersey Cuban Program headquarters in Weehawken.