

Castro target of plot, Omega infiltrator says

NEW YORK (UPI) — A Cuban exile founded the terrorist group Omega 7, believed responsible for numerous political bombings and assassinations, as a "final means" to rid Cuba of Fidel Castro, an FBI agent says.

The exile, according to the government, is former New Jersey longshoreman Eduardo Arocena, 41, who is on trial on charges he masterminded the assassinations and bombings.

FBI special agent Larry Wack, who for the past 10 years has been investigating Omega 7, took the stand Thursday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Omega 7 has claimed responsibility for at least two murders and 30 bombings in New York and Miami to draw attention to the anti-Castro cause.

Tapes of telephone conversations between Wack and Arocena were played at the trial. Wack said he secretly taped his phone conversations with Arocena after Arocena became a fugitive. In the tapes, Wack tried to persuade Arocena to turn himself in.

Arocena refused, insisting he must carry on his struggle to

"liberate" Cuba.

"That's my destiny," Arocena told Wack. "I feel like I'm doing (this) for society."

Wack also testified about meetings he had with Arocena just before he became a fugitive.

Wack said Arocena came to him in 1982, just days after Arocena appeared before a grand jury investigating Omega 7 terrorist activities. Arocena had not yet been charged with any wrongdoing but was an FBI suspect at that time.

In their conversation, Wack said Arocena finally revealed for the first time the mystery behind the name "Omega 7."

Arocena allegedly chose "Omega" — last letter of the Greek alphabet — to signify "this is the end, the final means to rid Cuba of Fidel Castro through violence," Wack said.

Arocena said the "7" referred to seven symbols on the Cuban flag — five stripes, a star and a triangle, according to the FBI agent. Arocena denied it referred to the number of people in the organization, Wack said.