Pro-Castro leader is slain in Jersey

By BRUCE CHADWICK

One of the country's leading pro-Castro political organizers was gunned down yesterday by a hooded man on a Union City, N.J., street.

Eulalio Negrin, 37, who police said had received numerous death threats during the last several years, was shot twice in the chest and three times in the head with a semiautomatic weapon, according to authorities.

Witnesses told police that a silver car with a red top moved slowly past Negrin and one of the occupants opened fire, killing Negrin instantly.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation entered the investigation immediately. "He's a top man in pro-Castro circles," said one agent.

Negrin is the second member of the Committee of 75, a pro-Castro group, to be slain. Carlos Munos, a travel agent who belonged to the organization, which has used its influence to lobby successfully to have political prisoners released from Havana jails, was shot to death in San Juan last May.

Reportedly met Castro here

Negrin, a longtime supporter of Castro, reportedly met with the Cuban leader here last October and was said to have been planning a trip to Cuba next spring.

"He was a very visible, very controversial guy," said Sgt. Victor Sismundo of the Union City police. "We're going to get every Cuban organizer—pro and anti-Castro—in here to tell us what they know about him."

Negrin started the New Jersey Cuban Social Club last spring in a storefront in Union City, which has a large Cuban population. Several weeks after it opened it was bombed, and Negrin reopened it in Weehawken, near the Jersey side of the Lincoln Tunnel. He considered the area safe, but the club was bombed again two months later.

Negrin told police at the time that he was convinced that the bombings were the work of anti-Castro Cubans, angry at him for his work on the Committee of 75.