

Two charged with putting bomb parts in activist's car

Miami Herald 4-11-87-3D

By RICHARD WALLACE
Herald Staff Writer

The FBI Friday arrested one of the two men charged with placing the unassembled parts of a bomb in the car of anti-Castro activist and Spanish-language radio commentator Manuel Espinosa in 1983.

Alberto Kairuz, 36, was arrested at the FBI's Miami office, said spokesman Paul Miller.

"Agents told him to come to the office this morning," Miller said. "He actually came to the office not knowing that there was a warrant for his arrest."

Kairuz and an alleged accomplice, Francisco de la Paz, were indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury in Miami on charges of conspiracy and possession of a destructive device.

De la Paz already is in state custody in an unrelated case, Miller said.

The bomb parts allegedly were put in Espinosa's 1976 Lincoln Continental on Feb. 26, 1983 outside his home at 4621 W. 18th Ct.

The unexploded components —

1 1/4 pounds of C-4 plastic explosive, blasting caps and detonation cord — were discovered the next day.

The indictment also alleges that in March of 1983, De la Paz issued a false "communique" that linked Espinosa to Omega 7, a secretive militant exile organization.

"It appears that Kairuz and de la Paz were attempting to discredit Manuel Espinosa, but the reasons behind that I'm not at liberty to say," Miller said.

Espinosa is a self-described former Cuban intelligence agent who is a fervent advocate of the overthrow of Cuban President Fidel Castro.

During the late 1970s, Espinosa became the focus of a political controversy in the South Florida Cuban exile community as an active figure in the Committee of 75. Committee members visited Cuba and engaged in a dialogue with Castro to gain the release of political prisoners held there.

Espinosa, who previously has been a minister of a Hialeah church, provides brief broadcasts of political commentary on radio station WQBA in Miami.

Un arrestado en caso de bomba a Espinosa

La Oficina Federal de Investigaciones (FBI) arrestó el viernes a uno de los dos hombres acusados de poner en 1983 piezas de una bomba en el automóvil del activista anticastrista y comentarista de la radio hispana Manuel Espinosa.

Alberto Kairuz, de 36 años, fue arrestado en la oficina del FBI en Miami, informó el portavoz Paul Miller.

"Agentes le habían dicho que viniera a la oficina", continuó Miller. "Y se presentó sin saber que existía una orden de arresto en su nombre".

El jueves, un gran jurado federal abrió causa en Miami contra Kairuz y un presunto cómplice, Francisco de la Paz, con cargos de confabulación y posesión de un artefacto destructivo.

De la Paz ya está preso por otro caso no relacionado, indicó Miller.

Las piezas de la bomba fueron puestas supuestamente en el Lincoln Continental modelo 1976 de Espinosa el 26 de febrero de 1983, frente a su casa en 4621 W. 18th Court, Hialeah.

Las piezas, que no estallaron —una libra y cuarto de explosivo plástico C-4, detonadores y alambre de detonación— fueron descubiertas al día siguiente.

El auto de acusación también alega que De la Paz emitió en marzo de 1983 un "comunicado" falso vinculando a Espinosa con Omega 7, organización militante secreta de exiliados.

4-11-87-2
Miami Herald

WQBA commentator Manuel Espinosa dies

By BELINDA BROCKMAN 8-6-87-1B
Herald Staff Writer

Manuel Espinosa, a firebrand minister and self-proclaimed former Cuban intelligence agent who feverishly advocated the overthrow of Fidel Castro, died Wednesday of a heart attack. He was 48.

Bombastic, controversial and charismatic, he called for the downfall of the Cuban government much as he had once praised the Lord in his

Hialeah Pentecostal congregation. Twice a day, six days a week since 1981, Mr. Espinosa had commented on issues in the Cuban-exile community over WQBA radio. A diatribe or gospel, depending upon the listener's view, his commentaries never failed to elicit reaction.

"Oh, the feedback we had," said Tomas Regalado, news director of WQBA. "He was very flamboyant. Sometimes he used humor. Very anti-Castro language. Very militant."

Big, bearded and bespectacled, he had the appearance of the preacher that he was and the fervor of a street hustler.

"The so-called leaders are the ones who doubt me, not the people," he told *The Miami News* in 1982.

"Not to compare myself, but they doubted the Apostle Paul and they doubted Christ and they

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Espinosa

Manuel Espinosa, radio commentator

8-6-87-4B

ESPINOSA / from 1B

doubted Reagan; why shouldn't they doubt me, an unknown?"

It was in 1980 that Mr. Espinosa stunned Little Havana with the announcement that he had been an agent of Castro. Since the early 1970s, the minister had been an outspoken proponent of dialogue between the Cuban exile community and the Castro government. He was a member of the executive board of the Committee of 75, the group that directed the dialogue, and was singled out by Castro as a leader in the reunification of Cuban families.

Then, like a bolt of lightning, in a series of highly publicized press conferences, Mr. Espinosa struck out at those he had once led. He denounced the dialogue as a vehicle of penetration by Cuban intelligence agents into South Florida. He named names. Many of his claims were never proven.

He explained his former activities: "These were orders by Castro. I was told to penetrate the community, bribe politicians, publish little newspapers. I was fighting alone, accepting all the conditions."

After the denunciations, Mr. Espinosa gave up his church and became a security consultant and private investigator, as well as radio commentator.

Mostly, he became a tracker of spies. For this, he became known in Little Havana as "The Hunter." He claimed his charge was to "unmask the extensive penetration of intelligence agents that operates in this country."

All through the years, he was the target of violence. He had been beaten and threatened. In 1983, parts of a bomb were found under his car. When he became saddened or discouraged at the outrages, he claimed to read the Bible, Psalm 73.

The flip-flop in political views was not new to the Havana-raised Mr. Espinosa. By 1956, he opposed the Fulgencio Batista regime, and later joined the revolution. He was named to the job of circulation inspector for the new government's official newspaper, *Revolucion*, in 1959.

Two years later, he had changed his mind and was imprisoned for 45 days in La Cabana prison. Upon Mr. Espinosa's release, he sought political asylum at the Uruguayan embassy in Havana after hiding in the ambassador's car, said his brother, George. He arrived in Miami in 1962.

In the years to follow, Mr. Espinosa joined several anti-Castro organizations and worked in New Jersey, Virginia and Florida. With his mother's death in 1972, he decided to join the Pentecostal religious community in Pittsburgh.

In 1974, he was ordained at Miami's Iglesia Evangelica Pentecostal, and a year later formed his own church.

Mr. Espinosa's son, Manuel Jr., said his father had recently returned to the pulpit, starting a new church. "He wanted to go back to that, being a preacher and doing what he really loved best," Manuel Jr. said.

In addition to his son and brother George, survivors include his wife, Haydee; two other brothers and one sister.

Funeral services will be private, under the direction of the Rivero Hialeah Chapel.

Muere Manuel Espinosa, discutida figura exiliada

8-6-87-2

Por BELINDA BROCKMAN
Redactora de El Miami Herald

Manuel Espinosa, aguerrido ministro religioso y autotitulado ex agente de inteligencia del gobierno de Cuba, quien abogó febrilmente por el derrocamiento del gobernante cubano Fidel Castro, falleció el miércoles de un ataque al corazón, a la edad de 48 años.

Rimbombante, controversial y carismático, pedía la caída del gobierno cubano con el mismo entusiasmo con que antes alabó al Señor en su congregación pentecostal de Hialeah. Dos veces al día y seis días a la semana, desde 1981, Espinosa había comentado temas del exilio cubano por la radioemisora WQBA. Sus comentarios, que eran considerados diatriba o evangelio, según los puntos de vista de los oyentes, nunca dejaron de provocar reacciones.

"Uy, la reacción que teníamos", comentó Tomás Regalado, director de noticias de la WQBA. "Era muy ostentoso. A veces utilizaba el humor. Un lenguaje muy anticastrista. Muy militante".

Grande, de barba cerrada y lentes, tenía el aspecto del predicador que era y el fervor de un vendedor callejero.

"Los autoproclamados líderes son los que dudan de mí, no la gente", dijo a *The Miami News* en 1982.

"No es que desee hacer comparaciones, pero dudaron del apóstol Pablo y dudaron de Cristo y dudaron de [el presidente Ronald] Reagan. ¿Por qué no habrían de dudar de mí, un desconocido?", señaló.

Fue en 1980 cuando Espinosa asombró a La Pequeña Habana con el anuncio de que había sido agente de Castro. Desde principios de los años

70, el ministro había sido un abierto partidario del diálogo entre la comunidad de exiliados cubanos y el gobierno castrista. Era miembro de la junta ejecutiva del Comité de los 75, el grupo que llevó adelante el diálogo y que había sido escogido por Castro como líder para la reunificación de las familias cubanas.

Entonces, en forma relampagueante, en una serie de conferencias de prensa sumamente divulgadas, Espinosa atacó a quienes antes había dirigido. Denunció el diálogo, calificándolo de vehículo de penetración de los agentes de la inteligencia de Cuba en el sur de la Florida. Mencionó nombres. Muchas de sus afirmaciones jamás se demostraron.

Espinosa explicó sus actividades previas: "Eran órdenes de Castro. Se me dijo que penetrarse a la comunidad, que sobornase a políticos, que



Espinosa: comentario y prédica

publicase periodiquitos. Luchaba solo, aceptando todas las condiciones".

Tras las denuncias, Espinosa dejó su iglesia y pasó a ser consultor de seguridad e investigador privado, así como comentarista de radio.

Lo sobreviven su esposa, Haydée; su hijo, Manuel; tres hermanos y una hermana. Los servicios fúnebres serán privados, bajo la dirección de la Funeraria Rivero de Hialeah.

Dead man's testimony disputed

IMC tries to block grand jury evidence

By STEPHEN J. HEDGES
Herald Staff Writer

The defense attorneys called Manuel Espinosa a scoundrel, a "nut case," an "admitted KGB agent" and a "criminal" Tuesday.

The government wants to call him a witness.

Espinosa, once a fiery anti-Castro commentator on WQBA radio, died in August at 48. But he was very much alive when he testified before a federal grand jury last February. Then he explained, at length his friendship and business relationship with Miguel Recarey Jr., the former owner of International Medical Centers.

Recarey was indicted in April and October and is now a fugitive.

His brother, Jorge Recarey, and two others, Antonio Fernandez Sr. and Mario del Rey, are on trial on charges that they took part in a kickback scheme to bring IMC an important union health-care contract.

Lawyers with the Justice Department's Miami Strike Force want to admit Espinosa's grand jury testimony, especially the pages where Espinosa recalls that Recarey told him about the \$75,000 he paid to Fernandez, how IMC had hired Fernandez's son, and how Fernandez could "bring my empire down."

Fernandez was trustee of the South Florida Hotel and Restaurant Union Local 355. That health-care contract was vital, the government says, because it boosted IMC membership to a level that

brought it a special federal contract.

Strike Force prosecutor Joe DeMaria said Tuesday that Espinosa's testimony goes a long way toward proving that Recarey paid a bribe for the union contract.

Defense attorneys in the case, however, responded with a chorus of objections about Espinosa and his character.

"This man is a total nut case, or was a total nut case," said lawyer Roy Black, who represents Jorge Recarey.

"We're talking about a man who is so despicable," said lawyer David Goodhart, who represents Fernandez. "We are totally denied any right to confrontation."

U.S. District Judge Lenore C. Nesbitt may rule today on whether the testimony will be allowed.

The Fernandez admissions aren't all Espinosa's testimony contains. In a motion filed with portions of the grand jury transcript, DeMaria states that "Recarey utilized Espinosa for his most sensitive assignments, such as conducting illegal wiretapping, physical surveillances, background checks and the payment of bribes to selected government officials."

"Espinosa was one of Miguel Recarey's closest confidants, maintaining a relationship with Recarey until the day before Espinosa died," DeMaria wrote.

During his grand jury appearance, Espinosa talked about Recarey's "million and a half" Gables Estates home. He says the bedroom picture window that offered a view of the ocean was bulletproof, as was the bedroom door.

"Not even President Reagan has such big bedrooms," he said.

"But only very exclusive people are allowed to walk into that room because that's his private bedroom. It's a bulletproof steel door. When he locks the door, you're not going to get out of there."

At one point, Espinosa said he told Recarey not to worry about Fernandez.

"I told him 'Why you let Fernandez put pressure on you. What does he want, money? Don't give any money.' He says you don't know what you're talking about. This man can bring my empire down."

Abogados de caso IMC discuten incluir cargos de M. Espinosa

Por **STEPHEN J. HEDGES**

Redactor de El Nuevo Herald

11-25-87-1B

Los abogados defensores calificaron el martes a Manuel Espinosa de bribón, "loco", "agente confeso de la KGB" y "criminal".

El gobierno lo quiere considerar testigo.

Espinosa, que fuera encendido comentarista anticastrista de la WQBA, murió en agosto a los 48 años. Pero estaba muy vivo cuando declaró ante un gran jurado federal el pasado febrero. En esa fecha dio explicaciones detalladas de su amistad y relación con Miguel Recarey Jr., ex dueño de los International Medical Centers (IMC).

Recarey fue encausado en abril y en octubre,

y se encuentra fugitivo actualmente.

Su hermano, Jorge Recarey, y otras dos personas, Antonio Fernández Sr. y Mario del Rey, están siendo procesados por cargos de haber participado en una confabulación de cobros ilegales para facilitar a IMC un importante contrato médico de sindicato.

Abogados del grupo especial en Miami del Departamento de Justicia quieren incluir el testimonio al gran jurado de Espinosa, especialmente las páginas en que Espinosa recuerda que Recarey le habló de los \$75,000 que pagó a Fernández, de cómo el IMC contrató al hijo de Fernández y de cómo Fernández podría "derribar mi imperio".

Jurado oirá testimonio de M. Espinosa

El juez que preside el proceso a tres acusados de hacer pagos fraudulentos a nombre de los International Medical Centers fallaron el lunes que el jurado podrá revisar declaraciones del finado Manuel Espinosa, que fue comentarista radial de la WQ-BA.

Espinosa murió en agosto. El pasado febrero se presentó ante un gran jurado federal y discutió su amistad con Miguel Recarey Jr., ex propietario de los IMC.

El hermano de Recarey, Jorge, y otras dos personas, Antonio Fernández Sr. y Mario del Rey, están acusados de haber participado en un plan de pagos ilegales, con el cual conseguir el contrato de cuidados médicos de un sindicato para los IMC. Miguel Recarey Jr. fue también encausado pero se encuentra fugitivo.

La juez federal de distrito Lenore C. Nesbitt falló el lunes que la fiscalía podrá presentar como prueba las declaraciones de Espinosa, a pesar de las objeciones de los abogados defensores, que calificaron a Espinosa de "truhan".

En sus declaraciones, Espinosa dijo que Miguel Recarey Jr. discutió con él el pago de \$75,000 a Fernández, entonces fideicomiso de un fondo administrado por el Sindicato de Empleados de Hoteles y Restaurantes del sur de la Florida.

Manuel Espinosa 12-8-87-13

IMC jury to hear dead man's testimony

The judge presiding over the trial of three men accused of rigging kickbacks from International Medical Centers ruled Monday that the jury may review earlier testimony of the late Manuel Espinosa, the outspoken WQBA radio commentator.

Espinosa died in August. Last February he appeared before a federal grand jury and discussed his friendship with Miguel Recarey Jr., the former owner of IMC.

Recarey's brother, Jorge, and two others, Antonio Fernandez Sr. and Mario del Rey, face charges that they took part in a kickback scheme to bring IMC a union health-care contract. Miguel Recarey Jr. was also indicted, but is a fugitive. *Miami Herald 12-8-87-2B*

U.S. District Judge Lenore C. Nesbitt ruled Monday that the government may offer Espinosa's testimony as evidence, despite objections from defense attorneys that Espinosa was a "scoundrel."

In his testimony, Espinosa says that Miguel Recarey Jr. discussed with him \$75,000 he paid to Fernandez, then trustee of a fund run by the South Florida Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union Local 355.