

F.B.I. Said to Link Townley and Cubans In Chilean's Killing

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
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WASHINGTON, April 19—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has uncovered telephone records linking an American recently extradited from Chile with anti-Castro Cubans suspected of the murder of a former Chilean Ambassador in Washington in September 1976, sources familiar with the case said today.

The informants said the records showed that the American, Michael V. Townley, had been in touch with the Cubans at least twice before the Chilean, Orlando Letelier, was killed by a bomb placed under his car.

Earlier this month, Mr. Townley, who has lived in Chile since 1958, testified before a judge in Santiago that he had been in the United States before the killing but that he had no connection with it.

The informants said today that Mr. Townley made two calls, one to a bar in Union City, N.J., frequented by Cuban radicals, and the other to the Cliffside Park, N.J., home of a suspect in the bombing death of Mr. Letelier in the late summer of 1976, shortly after Mr. Townley arrived in the United States.

This is the first indication to become public that there is documentary evidence linking Mr. Townley and anti-Castro Cubans who are suspected of having rigged and detonated a bomb under Mr. Letelier's car, also killing Ronni K. Moffitt, who was riding with him.

According to Government sources, Mr. Townley is in Federal custody at an undisclosed location in the Washington area after being brought from Chile by F.B.I. agents two weeks ago. Federal investigators say they believe that Mr. Townley, who has been described by a Chilean judge as a member of the nation's secret police, could provide the link between the death of Mr. Letelier and the Chilean intelligence service, formerly known as the National Intelligence Directorate, or Dina.

Associates of Mr. Letelier's at the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington political research group, have charged that the exiled former ambassador was murdered on the orders of members of the Government of General Augusto Pinochet in a plot launched by Dina. General Pinochet has denied complicity in the death.

The telephone records are part of a growing web of evidence that traces Mr. Townley's activities after he came to the United States carrying an official Chilean passport with a false name in the summer of 1976. He was identified, for instance, by Jack Holcomb, president of Audio Intelligence Devices Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., as the buyer of electronic equipment on behalf of the Chilean Government. Federal sources have said that the equipment was unconnected with the murder.