



—United Press International

A detective checks what remains of a car which blew up in Miami yesterday as owner Rolando Masferrer, a

leading anti-Castroite apparently turned on the ignition. Motive for the killing was not known immediately.

Influential During Batista Regime

Anti-Castro Leader Killed by Bomb

MIAMI (UPI)—Rolando Masferrer, a feared anti-Communist who headed his own private army in the fight against Fidel Castro's rebel forces, is believed to be the victim of a bomb which exploded as he turned on the ignition of his car.

Police yesterday refused to positively identify the charred, dismembered body as that of Masferrer, although a spokesman said, "It looks like it but they (authorities) are still checking it out."

A detective said "bits and pieces" of the victim's body were "all over the street."

THE BLAST, which occurred at 10:58 a.m. in front of Masferrer's home in southwest Miami, scattered

debris from the automobile 100 yards in all directions and blackened the leaves of the trees above the car.

The 56-year-old Masferrer, known as "El Tigre" because of the power he wielded during the reign of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, was known to have several enemies in the large Cuban exile community here.

During the Batista regime, Masferrer was a senator and newspaper publisher but also headed his own private army, known as "Masferrer's Tigers," against Castro's rebel troops in Cuba's Oriente Province.

Masferrer fled the island in his own boat when Castro gained power in 1959, but his political activism did not come to an end.

IN 1969 Masferrer was convicted of unlawfully attempting to export arms, ammunition and implements of war in a planned 1967 invasion of Haiti from the Florida coast. He dropped out of sight following his conviction but began serving a three-year prison sentence in September 1970, three months after he was required to report to the U.S. marshal.

Masferrer and Haitian exile president Father Jean Baptiste planned to invade Haiti to overthrow the regime of Francois Duvalier and set up a base for anti-Castro strikes against Cuba. The invasion force was nearly ready to leave Miami when federal authorities moved in.