

Slain Exile Had Several Enemies

MIAMI (UPI) - Cuban exile leader Rolando Masferrer, the former "Tiger of Havana" who was assassinated by a bomb blast Friday had recently recommended dynamite as a political weapon, authorities say.

He was killed when he turned on the ignition switch of his car in front of his home and was blown to bits. Police said several sticks of high-yield dynamite had been used in the blast.

Masferrer was the third anti-Castro leader to be slain in Miami's Cuban exile section in the last 18 months.

JOSE TORRIENTE was shot and killed by a sniper April 12, 1974, as he sat in his living room watching television, and Luciano Nieves was gunned down in a hospital parking lot on Feb. 21.

Police said yesterday

they know of no common link in the three slayings except they all may have had political overtones.

"We have no motive at this time, and no suspects either," police said.

Masferrer, a henchman of former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, was publisher of a small, weekly Spanish language newspaper, Libertad, in which he wrote last week of his approval of a rash of bombings in the Miami area.

"You do not beg for freedom, you conquer it with the sharp edge of the machete. But today's weapon is not the machete. The enemy is not close enough so that he can be hit with the cold and sharpened edge of steel. The time will come," the editorial said.

"IN THE MEANTIME, dynamite can speak in a uniquely eloquent manner all over the world."

Although police said they

knew of no motive, Masferrer was known to have several enemies in Miami's Little Havana section.

There were rumors he was an informer for federal agents on drug traffic in the area and other reports he practiced extortion, demanding money from exiles under the threat of unfavorable articles in his newspaper.

His opponents called him a gangster and a homosexual and his friends said he seldom ventured out of his house unarmed.

"He had been threatened steadily throughout his

life," said Chicho Jordan, a friend. "He was always careful, but he didn't keep bodyguards."

MASFERRER WAS HEAD of a private army and had the backing of Batista in Cuba before the takeover by Fidel Castro in 1959. He was accused of murder and torture during the 1950s, but denied the allegations.

He was elected to the Cuban Senate in 1948 and later was appointed to Batista's cabinet.