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Cuban Exiles Are Reported Linked to Slaying of Chilean in Washington

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 11—Administration intelligence officials said today that the most promising lead developed in the Washington bomb killing of Orlando Letelier, the former Chilean Foreign Minister, involved Cuban exile extremists.

Mr. Letelier and an assistant, Romni Morfitt, were killed Sept. 21 when a bomb exploded in his car as they were driving to work at the Institute for Policy Studies.

The intelligence officials said they had received several pieces of information linking the bombing to Cuban exiles.

They said Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had also learned that Cuban

exile groups, nominally constituted to oppose the Government of Prime Minister Fidel Castro, had a long-standing grudge against Mr. Letelier.

Umbrella Organization Suspected

The Cuban exiles were said to believe that Mr. Letelier, as Foreign Minister in the Government of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens, had been instrumental in promoting ties between Chile and the Castro Government.

The organization tentatively suspected of masterminding the Letelier bombing is an exile organization known as the Coordination of United Revolutionary Organizations.

The recently formed umbrella group

was described by the intelligence officials as made up of the Cuban Action, National Liberation Front of Cuban, Association of the Veterans of the Bay of Pigs, Movement of the 17th of April and the National Cuban Movement.

Some of these groups have taken responsibility for bombings of Cuban facilities in the hemisphere in the last two years. The umbrella organization is led by Orlando Bosch, 49 years old, a fugitive wanted in connection with violent actions by exile groups in Miami.

Second Investigation Under Way

The intelligence officials said a parallel investigation was pursuing the possibility that Mr. Letelier had been assassinated by Chilean left-wing extremists as a

means of disrupting United States relations with the military junta that governs Chile.

The intelligence officials said it appeared that the F.B.I. and the General Intelligence Agency had "virtually" ruled out the idea that Mr. Letelier was killed by agents of the Chilean military junta.

After the bombing, Mr. Letelier's friends repeatedly asserted that they had reason to believe he had been assassinated by DINA, the Chilean secret police. But the intelligence officials said they understood DINA was firmly under the control of the Government of Gen. Augusto Pinochet and that killing Mr. Letelier could not have served the junta's purposes.