

Cuban Refugee Leader Slain by Sniper in Fla.

CORAL GABLES, Fla., April 13 (UPI)—A Cuban exile leader whose promised invasion of his homeland failed to materialize four years ago was shot to death as he watched television in the living room of his elegant home.

Police said today they had no clues leading to the assailant who Friday night fired through the living room window and fatally wounded former Cuban Agriculture Minister Jose de la Torriente, 69.

A source close to the family said Torriente had recently received a threatening note that was "political" in nature.

Miami's "Little Havana" section buzzed with speculation that it was a political assassination.

Homicide Lt. James Green said no one saw the sniper.

"It happened so fast, nobody say anything," Green said.

"They shot him in the back," said Thomas Relado, Torriente's grandson.

"He took his risks, but he never thought anything like this could happen in a city in a country like this," Relado



JOSE DE LA TORRIENTE
... Cuban exile leader

said. "His only enemies were the Communists."

Castro had accused Torriente, who would have been 70 next week, of working for the CIA.

Torriente had drawn the normally politically fragmented Cuban community as close together as it had been since the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion with his 1970 pledge to invade Cuba by Christmas.