

Latin Havens For Terrorists

Miami

Cuban exile extremists who have been accused of terrorist activities against the Cuban government of Premier Fidel Castro have been tolerated, if not encouraged, by several Latin American countries.

The crash of a Cuban airliner off Barbados on October 6 in which all 73 aboard were killed has drawn international attention to a campaign of harassment against the Communist leadership of Cuba that has been under way in the Caribbean area for months.

There have been bombings of Cuban diplomatic missions, airline offices and press service bureaus in Panama, Colombia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, and an attempt to kidnap the Cuban consul in Merida, Mexico.

The extremists, believed by police to number no more than several hundred, are a small minority of the emigres who left Cuba after Castro seized power in 1959. Miami is the principal center of Cuban exiles, with about 500,000 living here.

In the case of the Cuban airliner, six persons including Dr. Orlando Bosch, a Cuban exile physician, have been indicted in Venezuela on charges of sabotage. The others include Luis Posada Carriles, a Cuban-born naturalized Venezuelan citizen who was trained by the United States Central Intelligence Agency and who has been running a private detective agency in Venezuela.

Bosch, who has worked in Miami as a pediatrician, violated probation by leaving the United States after he was paroled in 1974 from a ten-year prison sentence for firing a rocket at a Polish ship anchored in Miami. He was nevertheless allowed to move freely from

Venezuela to Chile, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and back to Venezuela.

Several Miami residents and Bosch met in the Dominican Republic in July. They issued a statement declaring their intention of waging a terrorist campaign against Cuba.

Cuban sources here said Manuel Artime, a former commander of American-trained anti-Castro raiders, had been in touch with Bosch and other exiles in Nicaragua, where President Anastasio Somoza is an ardent opponent of the Castro government and a business partner of Artime.

On two occasions, when Bosch was arrested in Venezuela and Costa Rica and offers were made to send him back to the United States as a parole violator, the Department of Justice refused to have him returned. Now that he has been implicated in the Cuban airliner case, the United States Embassy in Venezuela has asked that he be returned if not convicted.

According to the Miami police, Cuban exile extremists operate in a murky underworld, where anti-Communist and patriotic motives are often mixed with criminal extortion to obtain funds and with traffic in arms and drugs.

Their activities have also affected relations between Cuba and other Caribbean countries as well as future U.S.-Cuban relations under a new administration in Washington.

The recent increase in anti-Castro activities followed a decision by the Organization of American States in March, 1975, to end the break in diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba. Nine member countries have now restored relations. Any such normalization is opposed by the anti-Castro militants

and by right-wing governments, such as those of Chile and Nicaragua.

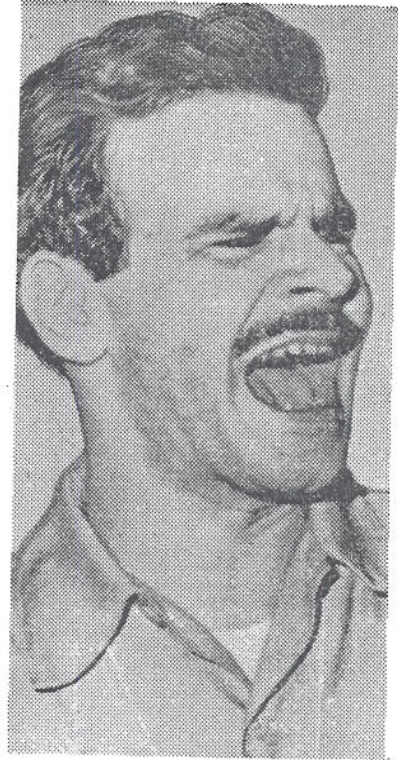
The United States, in a shift of policy reflecting detente, appeared to be encouraging normalization until Cuba sent forces to Angola in late 1975 to support one of the rival factions there.

The renewed activities of the Cuban exiles raise questions over their base of support, the source of their funds and the nature of their political relations.

Exile sources here say the extremists' activities are financed by wealthy Cubans in Miami and in other Caribbean centers. Some emigre doctors are making \$100,000 a year and, according to a Cuban who knows Bosch, have been giving him money so as to feel part of the anti-Castro movement.

It is also clear that the militants maintain good relations with the governments of Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, where planning meetings have taken place. In other countries, such as Venezuela and Costa Rica, Cuban exiles with influence have protected the militants.

The movements of Bosch also



Manuel Arttime is a former commander of anti-Castroites.

raise questions about the U.S. government's attitude toward the militants, many of whom were trained by the CIA for the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and later mounted other raids into Cuba. Since 1973, an anti-hijacking agreement between the United States and Cuba was considered to have put a halt to American support for the exiles.

Venezuela offered to send Bosch to the United States in November, 1974, after he had been arrested on charges of having planned an explosion at the Cuban embassy there. The U.S. embassy in Caracas said later that his case was not considered at a "political level" and that the Immigration and Naturalization Service refused to allow his return on the ground that he was an undesirable alien. This

account, however, is disputed by Venezuelan authorities.

Costa Rica offered to send him back last March after Bosch had been arrested on charges of participating in a bomb plot against Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on the secretary's visit to that country.

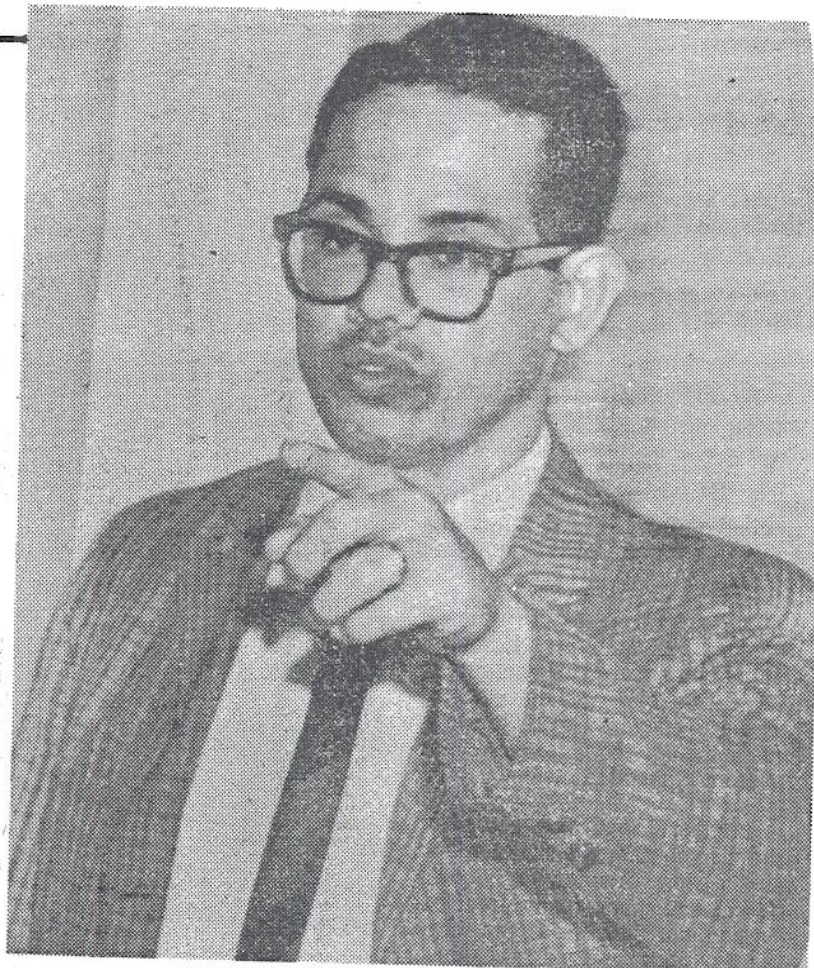
Gonzalo Facio Segreda, who was Costa Rica's foreign minister at the time, said in an interview in Puerto Rico that the U.S. State Department was advised of the arrest of Bosch by the Costa Rican Ambassador in Washington, Rodolfo Silva.

"We offered to send him back," Facio Segreda said, "but the reply was that they were not interested." There was speculation in Costa Rica that the U.S. refusal could have been politically motivated as it came just before the presidential primary in Florida.

Bosch had arrived in Costa Rica from Chile, where he had been living during most of 1975 at a guest house of the strongly anti-Castro Chilean military government. He came with a Chilean passport issued in the name of Hector D. Avanzo and had been in Nicaragua, where violently anti-Castro leaders openly support Cuban exile groups.

After the United States refused to take Bosch back, Facio Segreda said Costa Rica decided to expel him on his Chilean passport to the Dominican Republic, which granted him a visa.

But other Cuban exile sources in Costa Rica said he traveled with a Costa Rican passport, went to Nicaragua, and only arrived later in the Dominican Republic for a meeting of Cuban action groups in July. At this meeting, according to these sources, Bosch met with Frank Castro, a former U.S. Army officer of Cuban origin who, according to the Miami police, has a record of harboring Cuban extremists on the run from the United States; Roberto Carballo, representing the so-



Orlando Bosch, a Cuban exile physician, has been indicted in Venezuela for sabotage. UPI Telephoto

called 2506 Brigade that took part in the United States-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, and Felipe Rivero of the Cuban Nationalist Movement.

The meeting in the Dominican Republic declared a policy by the participating groups of attacking Cuban targets internationally, as well as within Cuba.

On September 18, according to Venezuelan immigration records, Bosch entered that country on his Costa Rican document, issued in the name of Paniagua. Costa Rica claims it is a forgery.

Bosch's arrival in Venezuela came three days before a bomb explosion in Washington killed Orlando Letelier, a former foreign minister of Chile and ambassador to the United States for the left-wing government of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has directed its effort to solve the killing of Letelier toward Cuban extremists, in part because

of the close ties that have grown up between the Chilean military government and Cuban exile groups that share anti-Castro militancy.

High Venezuelan officials admit that they knew that Bosch had entered the country despite his false identification, when, shortly after his arrival, he contacted Cuban exiles here.

Many well informed Cuban exiles interviewed in the Caribbean area do not believe that Bosch is a skilled extremist or sufficiently attractive as a political figure to be able to obtain even covert support from anti-Castro governments.

He does not have a record as an active opponent of the former Cuban government of General Fulgencio Batista or as an early foe of the Castro leadership. But he is respected for having given up what could be an easy life in Miami, and he has a certain public esteem as a man of action, although he has no political program other than fighting for the downfall of Castro.

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