

Comandante David Canceled by the FCC

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It's *Comandante David* signing off for now.

A Hialeah man identified as Jose Gonzalez was indicted in federal court Thursday on charges he operated a radio transmitter in violation of Federal Communications Commission rules.

And that man is *Comandante David*, voice of an anti-Castro radio station that preached doom for the government of Fidel Castro in Cuba to audiences across the island, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Lipman.

"That's him," said Lipman, who presented the case to a federal grand jury on behalf of the Federal Communications Commission. Lipman said the closing of the *Comandante's* station resulted from an

FCC investigation.

Jim Feagles, acting head of the Miami FCC office, declined to comment on the case.

Comandante David has been broadcasting to Cuba four times a week for several months. Cuban refugees arriving recently in the United States claimed the *Comandante* accurately predicted sabotage acts on the island before they took place.

But his broadcasts interfered with ham radio operations in the United States. Complaints to the FCC led the agency to monitor *Comandante David's* broadcasts. The investigators discovered that the broadcasts originated from the *Comandante's* home in Hialeah and the FCC has seized his equipment, said Lipman.

The federal indictment did not include an address. In his broadcasts, *Comandante David* said his station was located somewhere in the mountains of eastern Cuba.

The FCC closed another clandestine anti-Castro radio station in February. Lipman said that, to his knowledge, there is no link between the closing of that station — called Radio Giron and operated by the Bay of Pigs Veterans Association — and the indictment issued Thursday.

At least three other secret anti-Castro stations continue to operate, however.