

Convicted bomber seeks to have his say in court

By RALPH RANALLI

Convicted Roslindale bomber Alfred Trenkler wants to speak "for approximately 60 minutes" at his sentencing hearing today in federal court, according to a letter from his lawyer.

Defense attorney Terry Segal's one-sentence letter did not mention what his client

would talk about, but supportive family letters filed with the court have charged the 37-year-old electrical engineer was "set up" by federal agents.

Trenkler was convicted last year of masterminding a 1991 bombing that killed Boston Police Bomb Squad Officer Jeremiah Hurley and maimed his partner,

Francis X. Foley.

A jury found that Trenkler conspired with Thomas A. Shay of Quincy to build a radio-controlled bomb to kill Shay's father for insurance money and revenge. The bomb went off as Hurley and Foley were examining it.

In pre-sentencing papers filed with the court, Assistant U.S. At-

torneys Paul V. Kelly and Frank Libby Jr. have asked U.S. District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel to give Trenkler a life sentence.

Since Trenkler was convicted of federal charges of conspiracy, receiving explosives and malicious destruction of property, it is up to Zobel to determine whether the charges are "analo-

gous" to first-degree murder, second-degree murder or manslaughter under federal guidelines.

Zobel ruled Shay's involvement in the bombing was analogous to second-degree murder and sentenced him to 17½ years in prison.

Federal prosecutors, however, argue that Trenkler "drew on his electronics expertise to

design, acquire parts for and meticulously craft a powerful remote-control bomb" which "had a single goal: to kill," their papers state.

Segal, however, filed papers suggesting the "case involve(s) an accidental detonation and unintentional death" and therefore Zobel should find the equivalent of manslaughter.