

Bond At \$25,000 In ^{FLORIDA}

FEB 15 1968 N

By BILL BARRY
Miami News Reporter

COLLECTOR Cuban Bomb Case

A \$25,000 bond was set today for accused Cuban Power bomber Ricardo (Monkey) Morales Navarrete.

Before setting the bond, Criminal Court Judge Jack Turner, said, "This is about as serious a charge as you can have — placing bombs around."

Morales, who was trained for demolition work by the United States government and who once fought against pro-Communist rebels in the Congo, is accused of planting a bomb that blew apart the store front at Servicios Especializados. The bombing occurred on Jan. 25.

The store forwards food and medicine to Cuba. Two other local businesses were hit by bombs the same night.

Police said they found Morales' fingerprints on the remains of a package which had contained C-4, a combat explosive. Also, they said,

they found a small bomb and a detonator in Morales house at 921 SW 5th Ave.

Morales was once a member of a Cuban exile commando unit trained by U.S. agencies for guerrilla warfare. In 1964 members of the unit were flown to the Congo to stop a Red drive.

The group was credited with wresting control of Stanleyville from the rebels.

Morales has allegedly also

made several anti-Castro forays into Cuba.

At the hearing today his wife and three children were in the courtroom.

Testifying, his wife said, that they had been in the United States three years and that her husband had never been in trouble with the law except for one time when he was arrested by Immigration authorities who caught him returning from a Cuban trip. He was not charged with any offense.

Assistant State Attorney Al Sepe asked her if her husband left Florida very much.

"Many times," she said, "to go to the Congo and go to Cuba."

Judge Turner cut off the questioning when defense attorney David Phillips asked Mrs. Morales what army her husband had been serving in during the Belgian Congo fighting.

Liberty thereafter the

woman began to soundlessly as Miami intelligence agent Sgt. Everett Kay, recounted the basic details of the store bombing.

Sepe then told the court that at one of the bombings, "shrapnel hit an officer and could have killed him."

He described Morales as, "a member of a militant group engaging in terror bombings."

In setting the bond, Judge

Turner noted that Morales was not a citizen and had no firm roots in Miami. He instructed the state to expedite the trial so that Morales would not be held in jail for an undue length of time.

As he left the courtroom, Morales waved his hand toward his children, indicating he wanted them taken out of the courtroom. His two boys stood up and stared blankly at him. His third child, a small girl, did not see him.

Miami News
15 Feb 1968