

Ex-CIA agent pleads guilty

By **BILL MINTZ**

A Cuban refugee who is a veteran of the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion and a former CIA agent pleaded guilty Friday to falsely claiming U.S. citizenship.

Chief U.S. Dist. Judge Adrian A. Spears set a May 17 sentencing date for Nestor Izquierdo Diaz after a private conference in his chambers.

Judge Spears initially sought to sentence Izquierdo Friday on the charge, which carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

The judge sought information from U.S. Magistrate Joseph F. Leonard Jr., defense attorney Roy Barrera and federal prosecutors in the case.

The prosecutors said they wanted more time to determine if any additional information is turned up.

Legal immigrant

Izquierdo, a legally emigrated Cuban national living in Miami, was arrested March 22 at San Antonio International Airport after he falsely identified himself as a Puerto Rican.

He had arrived on a flight from Mexico City.

He was jailed in lieu of a \$250,000 bond.

At a bond reduction hearing before Judge Leonard, Barrera said Izquierdo had formerly served with the CIA.

Izquierdo was subsequently released on a \$25,000 bond.

He told Judge Leonard he went to Mexico to visit friends.

Visit shrine

The Cuban later told reporters he had gone to Mexico City to visit the Shrine of Guadalupe.

He said he had promised to make the pilgrimage after escaping alive from the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

But, he said, he traveled under the

assumed name because he had been unable to get a visa to enter Mexico because of his anti-Communist activities.

His former superior, retired Naval Intelligence officer Harold Finney of Corpus Christi, said he thought Izquierdo went to Mexico to visit other Cuban exiles, Judge Leonard said.

Finney also said he recruited Izquierdo for the Bay of Pigs operation,

Judge Leonard said.

While Izquierdo was in Mexico, another Cuban exile escaped from a Mexican jail.

Gaspar Jimenez was in custody for his role in an attack on a Cuban diplomat in Merida in July.

Izquierdo denied any role in the escape or the July incident.

He said he is not now working for the CIA.