

# Cuban 'CIA agent' freed

By BILL MINTZ

A Cuban refugee with reported ties to the CIA planned to return to his Miami home Monday night after almost two weeks in Bexar County Jail.

Nestor Izquierdo-Diaz was arrested March 22 at San Antonio International Airport for allegedly falsely declaring he was a U.S. citizen after arriving on a flight from Mexico City.

He was released on \$25,000 bond Monday by U.S. Magistrate Joseph F. Leonard Jr.

His attorney, Roy Barrera of San Antonio, stated in a motion filed with Judge Leonard that Izquierdo served with the CIA and could not return to his native Cuba or to Mexico.

Izquierdo told reporters he left Cuba in March 1960. He said he was never told he was working for the CIA.

Speaking in Spanish with Barrera as interpreter, he said he went to Mexico City to fulfill a promise.

"I promised to visit the Shrine of Guadalupe if I returned alive from the Bay of Pigs," he said.

## Invasion

He added he participated in planning of the abortive invasion of Cuba by anti-Castro forces in April 1961.

But during a court appearance Friday, Izquierdo told Judge Leonard he went to Mexico City to visit friends but could not find them.

He said he was travelling under an assumed name because the Mexican authorities would not grant him a visa because of his anti-Communist activities.

He said he was not working for the CIA when he went to Mexico.

First Asst. U.S. Atty. John M. Pinckney III said one of three Cubans held in connection with an attack on a Cuban diplomat in Veracruz apparently escaped from a Mexico City jail at the same time Izquierdo was there.

## Identification

When he arrived at the airport here on the way back from Mexico City, he presented papers to U.S. Immigration inspectors with the name Jose Antonio

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**ALLEGED CIA agent Nestor Izquierdo leaves U.S. Courthouse with his wife after Monday bond release**

STAFF PHOTO BY CHARLES BARKSDALE

# AGENT

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Colon, including a Florida driver's license and a voter registration card.

But he was arrested here when additional papers were discovered in his luggage during a search prompted when customs officials became suspicious of his statement he was a citizen.

He is a registered alien legally admitted to the United States in 1960.

His case has been referred to the federal grand jury, which is scheduled to meet April 12.

In his motion to reduce Izquierdo's bond from an initial \$250,000, Barrera said the Cuban's CIA superior, retired Naval Intelligence officer Harold Finney, would vouch for his client.

## **Florida**

Finney, now retired and a vitamin and nutriment distributor in Corpus Christi, told the Express he met Izquierdo in Florida around 1960.

He would not confirm his own involvement with the CIA.

He said, "I knew him (Izquierdo) when he allegedly worked for the CIA."

"He is a very nice fellow," he said. "I haven't the foggiest idea if he is working for the CIA now."

Izquierdo said he met Finney about the time he was involved with the Bay of Pigs operation.

He said he was last in Cuba in 1962 or 1963.

Finney said he spent some time at Guantanamo Naval Base, a U.S. installation in Cuba.

Izquierdo initially appeared before Judge Leonard represented by Coral Gables, Fla., attorney Juan Ramirez Jr.

He was released on bond Monday after depositing \$2,500 with U.S. Dist. Clerk Dan Benedict and posting two pieces of property — other than his home — as security.