

Spy Denied Lower Bond In Drug Case



MORALES

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The gold badge and the card in the small, leather case identified a member of Venezuela's secret police.

A separate identification card showed that Ricardo Morales Navarette is a Venezuelan citizen.

Morales — a well-traveled spy, drug informant and soldier of fortune nicknamed "Monkey" — said Wednesday that he is a man without a country.

Flanked by four attorneys and facing drug charges after a \$1.5-million marijuana arrest last week, Morales offered Wednesday to surrender his often-used passport in exchange for a bond reduction.

CIRCUIT JUDGE Wilkie Ferguson Jr. said "No," after hearing testimony from two state prosecutors, an FBI agent, an assistant U.S. attorney and Morales.

Four jailers led Morales back to solitary confinement in Dade County Jail. His bond is \$350,000.

Morales, short, stocky and confident, was arrested by Miami police Thursday at Kendall Drive and SW 117th Street. He was driving a new, black Oldsmobile Cutlass that had stopped minutes before at a rented home in southwest Dade.

Outside the home, a "Jack's Furniture" truck was picking up a load

of 5,000 pounds of marijuana. Morales allegedly led the truck to the farmhouse.

Miami police quietly watched the marijuana transfer before the arrests began.

Morales was carrying a Venezuelan police identification when arrested — expiration date: January 1977. He also was carrying a .45-caliber pistol.

MORALES' only worry, according to state attorney investigator Bill Reilly, was surviving in the general population of the county jail. Reilly told Ferguson that Morales feared that he would be killed in jail.

Morales testified that he has survived two recent assassination attempts.

Four years ago, a bomb blew Morales from a leased car. He drove on flat tires around the corner after the bombing, chuckled about what the leasing company would think of it and hopped from the car.

Morales talked Wednesday of his lack of citizenship and his globe-trotting spying since he left Cuba in 1960.

Costa Rica, Germany, Austria, Colombia, Sweden, England, Spain and Mexico. Morales said his counterintelligence activities — for Fidel Castro, the Venezuelan government and the CIA — have led to as many as 20 foreign countries.