

Arrest is expected soon in murder of terrorist

Manuel colz 2C 13 Jan 83

By ANA VECIANA-SUAREZ
Herald Staff Writer

Metro-Dade police investigating the fatal shooting of Ricardo (Monkey) Morales say they expect "a major break" and a possible arrest in the case by the end of the week.

Wednesday, police still sought the gunman who shot the terrorist-turned-informant in a crowded Key Biscayne Bar last month, but said they were confident the case would be solved.

"We do expect a major break by the end of the week and we will probably be going to the state attorney's office to get a determination on what we have," Metro homicide Lt. Al Harper said



Morales

Monday.

Immediately after the Dec. 20 shooting of Morales, police announced they knew the identity of the gunman but admitted they had a lot of legwork to do before arresting the suspect.

"It's hard to say when," Metro-Dade Sgt. John Jones said. "You got to go day to day. Nothing has come about yet, but the investigation is continuing."

Ten to 15 people witnessed the late-night shooting at Cherry's, the lounge at Roger's on the Green Restaurant, but they fled after the barroom brawl. Police say they have been busy tracking down the witnesses and talking to them, but refused to give out the name of those interviewed.

Rogelio Novo, owner of Roger's — on — the — Green and considered a suspect by police when the shooting occurred, has not been taken in for questioning by police. Novo's attorney, Roy Black, said his client is innocent.

"Mr. Novo didn't shoot Mr. Morales. Maybe that's why they haven't spoken to him," Black said.

Attorney Michael von Zamft said his client, Orlando Torres, a gunshop employe, may be questioned in connection with the shooting later this week.

"I have been told they would like to question him about the shooting," von Zamft said. "There is no reason I know of that he should be."

Police say they still believe the shooting was a simple barroom brawl and not a crime of intrigue, a result of Morales' checkered past.

"That hasn't changed. We still believe it was a fight over a drink," Jones said.

Morales' attorney, John Komorowski, accused police of "whitewashing" the case.

"If you think that was just your average barroom fight, I'll sell you a bridge with a toll booth," Komorowski said. "That was a pro-

fessional hit."

Morales, 42, drove his flashy Cadillac to the Key Biscayne bar the night he was shot. His companion was Nancy Lamazares Cid, a long-time associate and the widow of a slain drug trafficker.

Police said a hysterical Cid was still with Morales when they found him drowning in his own blood on the carpeted floor of the bar. He was taken to Mercy Hospital, where he died a day later.

A double, and sometimes even a triple agent, Morales worked for the CIA and was once a top Venezuelan secret police official. Last year, he admitted his part in the 1976 bombing of a Cubana Airlines flight off Barbados in which 73 persons died.

In 1980, he became a state informant in the Operation Tick-Talks narcotics probe. Circuit Judge Gerald Kogan later threw out those cases because he said Morales' word was not reliable.