

Police informer *Miami Her coll 21 Dec 82* Morales shot at *IA* Key restaurant

Ricardo (Monkey) Morales Navarette, the 43-year-old Cuban who made a career out of dealing and double-dealing in the treacherous world of exile terrorism, was shot and critically wounded late Monday night in a Key Biscayne bar, Metro-Dade police said.

Morales was shot in the head in a dimly lit bar adjacent to Rogers on the Green Restaurant at around midnight, police said. He was taken, unconscious, to Mercy hospital at about 12:30 a.m. by a Metro fire rescue team.



Morales

He was listed in very critical condition, with a single gunshot wound to the ear, according to a hospital spokesman.

Morales' most recent notoriety came last spring during hearings on the Miami Police Department's Tick-Talks drug-trafficking case. It was Morales' word that led police to use wiretaps and bugs to gather more than 1,000 hours of tape recordings that prosecutors hoped to use to convict some 50 people in the city's biggest dope bust.

And it was Morales' lack of credibility that led a Dade circuit judge to rule those tapes inadmissible: Judge Gerald Kogan decided, after an eight-week pretrial hearing, that Morales'

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word simply wasn't good enough.

The Tick-Talks hearing gave the public a glimpse into the secret career of a man who spent two decades fighting for and betraying friends and causes.

At one time or another — and in some cases perhaps, at the same times — Morales had been an intelligence agent for the Castro government, an anti-communist operative who went on armed raids on his homeland, a mercenary in the Belgian Congo, a demolition expert for Miami-based gamblers, an informant for the FBI, CIA and U.S. Drug Enforcement Adminis-

tration, and the chief of counter-espionage for the Venezuelan secret police.

In a pretrial deposition taken in December 1980, Morales told Dade prosecutors of still other roles he had played in the hemispheric demimonde of crime and terrorism:

- Helping provide anti-Castro terrorists with the explosives for the October 1976 mid-air destruction of a Cubana Airlines jetliner, in which 76 people died.

- Murdering Cuban exile activist Eladio Ruiz in 1973 in Miami. Charges against Morales were dropped after the key witness against him disappeared.

- At least 10 bombings during Miami's bloody "Bookie Wars" between rival gambling interests.