

# Cops Spy Familiar Face in Drug Bust

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The spy for all seasons. Ricardo "Monkey" Morales, became the latest suspect Thursday in what Miami detectives call "a multimillion-dollar drug operation."



Morales' arrest with three other Miami men in a marijuana-loading operation was a "continuation" of the investigation that seized \$14 million in cocaine and \$913,000 in cash two weeks ago, Miami Maj. Eugene Gunn said.

An associate of Morales said he had been seen with Carlos Quesada, one of seven arrested in the previous raid.

**MORALES** MORALES, 38, has been back in Miami since February, living in an apart-

ment at 2121 N. Bayshore Dr., according to friends.

Since 1975, he has been a ranking officer in the Venezuelan secret police. Before that Morales was a valuable FBI informant, a CIA operative and an agent of Fidel Castro's feared secret police.

Friends say he favors Johnny Walker Black on the rocks, spending sheafs of money at pricey clubs like the Mutiny. He reads every espionage book he can find and cries every time he sees the movie *Casablanca*.

Enemies and friends alike admire Morales' quick intellect, photographic memory and grace under pressure.

A bomb almost blew him out of his leased Chevy four years ago. He drove on flat tires around the corner, "in case somebody was waiting to finish me off," then hopped out and chuckled to think how the leasing company would react.

**THURSDAY**, police charged Morales with possession of a .45-caliber pistol, but they said he

surrendered almost cheerfully, smiling as they led him in handcuffs to a patrol car. He also was charged with felony possession of marijuana. He was booked into the Dade County Jail, and bond was set at \$262,000.

Police confiscated some 5,000 pounds of carefully weighed and baled pot worth about \$1.5 million. It was stored at a pale-green rural house at 7400 SW 123rd Ave.

Arrested with Morales and charged with felony marijuana possession were Cary Wayne Clark, 28, of 2240 NW 196th Ave.; Edward Lewis Dunbar, 28, of 15935 SW Miami Ave.; and Richard Joseph Prino, 29, who refused to give his address.

The three men gave false names when first arrested, according to police.

Morales was cornered at Kendall Drive and SW 117th Street, Metro police said, after leaving the house at which the marijuana was being loaded into a furniture truck. Back at the house, detectives surprised the three pot loaders, police said.