

Police ignored drug figure's charges

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The credibility of Ricardo (Monkey) Morales, the key state witness in a massive narcotics probe, came into further question Thursday in Dade Circuit Court when it was disclosed that Morales told police in 1978 and 1981 about alleged misconduct by high-ranking Metro-Dade and Miami officers, and neither force

undertook any probe of his accusations until this week.

At an unusual hearing Thursday, officers from both departments told Judge Gerald Kogan of when they learned of the allegations and what action they took.

At the end of the hearing, Kogan said: "It does not appear at this point that there are any pending investigations that Mr. Morales contributed to."

That conclusion may be critical to the seven-week-long effort by defense attorneys representing 41 people accused of narcotics smuggling in the state's Tick-Talks case. Morales is the informant on whom detectives and prosecutors based their request to Dade Circuit Judge Thomas Scott for wiretap authorization in January 1981.

Defense attorneys have claimed that Morales is a liar.

If they can show that police agencies had discounted or disproved previous allegations made by Morales, the defense argument would be strengthened, and Judge Kogan could be forced to suppress the more than 1,000 hours of wiretaps that are virtually the only evidence in the case.

Doubts about Morales' credibili-

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