

# Drug dealer tried to bribe him, officer says

5-4-82-13

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An admitted drug dealer who was once a federal witness tried to bribe a Miami police detective with a \$12,000 gold Rolex watch, an expensive Walther P-38 automatic pistol, membership in a disco favored by high-rollers and the option to buy jewelry at bargain prices, the detective testified Monday.

Detective Diosdado Diaz told defense attorney Doug Williams that he met Carlos Quesada on several occasions and that Quesada, now a defendant in the state's massive Tick-Talks narcotics

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Detective Diosdado Diaz testified that Carlos Quesada, a defendant in the Tick-Talks narcotics case, was trying 'to compromise' him.

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case, was trying "to compromise" him.

"Mr. Quesada had made it known to you that he would provide anything of value that you wanted?" Williams asked.

"Yes, sir," Diaz responded.

The detective has been testifying in the pretrial efforts by attorneys defending the 41 persons

charged in the Tick-Talks case to have the more than 1,000 hours of wiretap evidence thrown out. For the past five weeks, Dade Circuit Judge Gerald Kogan has been holding a suppression hearing — much of it about the probe of the organization Quesada allegedly headed.

At issue has been the credibility

of the state's key witness: Ricardo (Monkey) Morales Navarette — spy, killer, terrorist and alleged drug dealer. Quesada and Morales were longtime associates, Diaz has said, but they had a falling-out that brought Morales to the police to inform on his ex-friend.

The reason for the falling-out: heroin, which Morales didn't want the ring to distribute, and a silencer-equipped Mach-10 sub-machine gun, Diaz told the court Monday. Morales himself is expected to testify later this week.

In testimony Friday, Diaz told

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how he developed both Morales and Quesada as informants — but said that Quesada was trying to manipulate the police against his drug-business rivals. The alleged payoffs were part of that attempted manipulation. Monday, Diaz told of meeting both Morales and Quesada at The Mutiny, a Coconut Grove nightclub. It was Halloween night 1980.

Diaz said that Morales was angry because he had loaned Quesada the Mach 10 — a favorite weapon in the narcotics trade. Morales wanted it back. According to defense attorney Williams, the 42-year-old CIA-trained espionage expert became "increasingly agitated" over Quesada's failure to return the weapon. Williams asked if Morales was "bordering on possessed, preoccupied" with the gun.

"There was a big argument over it," Diaz replied. "All of them were erratic, unpredictable."

"Wouldn't the most erratic and unpredictable be Mr. Morales?"

"I wouldn't say that," Diaz said.

Defense attorneys are trying to characterize Morales as an unreliable informant on whom police based the request for wiretaps on Quesada's home telephone and a wall bug planted in a clock. If they can show that the sworn affidavits provided to Judge Thomas Scott for the wiretaps were not credible, then Judge Kogan would be forced to suppress the evidence. Under Florida law, before police can obtain a wiretap, they must exhaust every other legitimate investigative tool. They must also base their request on accurate information.

Diaz insisted that Morales opposed Quesada's decision to take his organization into heroin smuggling. Diaz described how one attempt at a mid-ocean rendezvous went awry. He said that Quesada raised some \$700,000 to invest in the venture. He also said that Morales told him Quesada was trying to open a line of credit at the Sunshine State Bank to launder drug money.

Diaz said that Morales told him some of the money from narcotics deals was funneled into the cam-

paign chest of Manolo Reboso, who failed in his effort to gain Miami's mayoralty.

Morales also described a meeting at the Coral Gables Holiday Inn where a narcotics transaction was planned, Diaz said. That alleged meeting was a cornerstone of the wiretap request. But police were never able to corroborate any details of the meeting — or to confirm that the meeting actually took place, Diaz was forced to admit by attorney Williams.

"What could we do, call them [the alleged dealers] up?" Diaz protested. "We couldn't do anything."

The hearing is expected to continue for another two or three weeks. The 41 Tick-Talks defendants are scheduled for trial in late August — but that schedule depends on whether Kogan suppresses the wiretaps.

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