

# Bombing was during bookie wars

5-8-82-26

MORALES / From 1B

witness in the massive Tick-Talks narcotics probe — claimed in the sworn statement that he knows of at least two corrupt policemen — one in the Miami department, one in Metro: Although the names are contained on the sworn statement, they have not been made public yet.

Miami detectives say the allegations are "currently under investigation." Metro Police Chief Bobby Jones said "it would be inappropriate to comment until I have a chance to review the information."

The revelations surfaced in the six-week long effort by defense attorneys for some 41 men accused of narcotics trafficking in the Tick-Talks case to have some 1,000 hours of wiretap evidence suppressed. Morales, once an admitted participant in the alleged smuggling, has become the state's central witness against the 41 defendants.

Morales is expected to testify in Judge Gerald Kogan's courtroom next week. He has been preceded, however, by Detective Diosdado Diaz, the Miami policeman who developed Morales as a source of information. Much of what Morales told Diaz and then subsequently told defense attorney Douglas Williams in a 75-hour deposition ranging from Morales' days as a mercenary soldier fighting in what was then the Belgian Congo to his current existence as a sometime spy and professional informant, has emerged in Diaz's courtroom testimony.

Diaz, Friday, told an incredulous

Judge Kogan about the allegation Morales made. "You mean a police officer provided the information to bomb the home of another police officer?" Kogan demanded to know.

"Yes, sir," Diaz replied.

"Mr. Morales was contacted by one of the organized crime persons and told he was needed for a job that night," Diaz continued. "He was given the information to place the bomb at a meeting.

"They gave him the address and he was paid for that. He got the explosive. He did the bombing. He didn't know until the next day that it was the house of a police officer," Diaz said.

"You mean a police officer supplied the name and address and instructions?" Kogan asked again.

Diaz nodded affirmatively.

Morales also admits, on the deposition, to performing two other bombings during the 1967 "Bookie Wars." Those bombings at the boat and home of convicted jewel thief John Clarence Cook were part of the struggle for control in the Miami underworld. Morales also claims to have set a bomb at Alfie's sundry store — a well-known bookmaking front — at the same time.

During the two weeks that detec-

tive Diaz has been on the stand, it has been revealed that Morales admitted complicity in the October 1976 bombing of a Cubana Airlines jetliner that plunged into the sea in the Bahamas after being ripped apart by a blast. The 73 passengers and crew on board were killed.

Most of the information emerging during the hearing has centered on Morales' involvement in the anti-Castro underground both in the United States and in Latin America. The terrorist connection has been a constant backdrop to the suppression hearing. Morales, onetime chief of espionage for the Venezuelan secret police, has at various times been connected to the CIA, FBI, DEA, and MOSSAD, the Israeli intelligence organization.

Surrounding all the allegations is the legal issue of Morales' credibility. When Circuit Judge Thomas Scott signed the orders for the wiretaps on the phones and on a wall-clock in Quesada's Little Havana house, it was based on Morales' sworn allegations. That the allegations are truthful is a key legal issue. On his deposition, Morales claims that all his statements are completely true — and that statement is what Dade prosecutors are forced to live with.

## Policeman called link in bombing

Target also officer, witness testifies

5-8-82-16

By JOHN KATZENBACH  
Herald Staff Writer

A Metro-Dade police officer allegedly acted as the go-between for admitted terrorist Ricardo (Monkey) Morales Navarette and a well-known gambler, who was plotting the bombing of a Miami policeman's home, it was revealed in court Friday.

The go-between, described in court as "a more than 10-year veteran" of the Metro force allegedly met with Morales in July 1967 and handed over the address of rookie Miami policeman Gerald Saslaw. The ex-spy and admitted killer previously had contracted with convicted gambler Frank (Leity) Rosenthal to do the bombing. Morales told defense attorneys in a sworn deposition.

A bomb exploded on Saslaw's



Ricardo (Monkey) Morales Navarette: Terrorist.

front lawn July 11, 1967 shattering glass but not injuring anyone.

Miami was then being rocked with what became known as the "Bookie Wars" a series of bombings and killings between warring, organized crime elements fighting for control of the area's gambling revenues.

Morales — now a key state's

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