

Police-corruption charges still being probed, officers say

Allegations of local police corruption raised two months ago in the Operation Tick-Talks narcotics case remain under investigation, according to local police agencies.



Morales

The corruption allegations made by admitted killer and key prosecution witness Ricardo (Monkey) Morales in a deposition and in police-conducted interviews came to light during a lengthy hearing over whether to suppress 1,000 hours of wiretap evidence.

Lt. Jerry Burgin of the Metro-Dade Police Department Internal Review Section said his unit's probe into the activities of Capt. Charles Black, one of several officers men-

tioned in open court, may last several more weeks.

Morales has alleged that Black associated with members of the Mafia and approved the revenge bombing of a police officer's house in the late 1960s.

Sgt. Charles Reynolds, acting unit commander of the Miami Police Department Internal Security Unit, said investigators still are probing Morales' allegations that Miami Police Lt. Guillermo Zamora was involved in a police payoff scheme in 1967 and that he helped Morales in the bombing of the Miami police officer's house that same year.

Both Black and Zamora have denied Morales' allegations. Morales' credibility was questioned in May after The Herald reported that he had given two contradictory statements about the 1967 bombing.

In a statement in 1981, Morales accused Black of having approved the bombing. Earlier this year, Mo-

rales changed his story and swore that Zamora, and not Black, helped him with the bombing.

Burgin said an investigation concerning a third officer whose name arose during the wiretap suppression hearing is continuing as well.

Defense attorneys mentioned Metro Lt. Raul Diaz as another target of Morales' corruption allegations during the hearing, although Morales and one of his police interrogators dispute whether Diaz's name ever came up in the context of corruption.

The corruption allegation concerning Diaz stems from a 1978 interview that Morales had with several police officers. During the taped interview, Morales referred to an officer whom he said socialized with targets of organized crime investigations and may have divulged sensitive police intelligence.

The tape recording does not

make it clear to whom Morales was referring.

Recently, however, Morales said in sworn testimony that it wasn't Diaz. But one of the 1978 interrogators, Miami Police Officer Sebastian Aguirre, has testified in a sworn deposition that Diaz was the officer referred to.

The Herald reported incorrectly in a previous article that Morales

had accused Diaz of corruption in a lengthy deposition taken earlier this year. Prosecutors and defense attorneys agree that the recent deposition contains no such allegation.

Referring to the disputed 1978 interview, Diaz said: "If my partner and I went to places where people [they were investigating] frequented, it was because it was our jobs."

Diaz said he was investigating

terrorist organizations in the mid-1970s.

"One of the things an intelligence agency does is to put out disinformation to create confusion and dissatisfaction and an aura of distrust within an organization," he said.

"Someone may have gotten the impression that something was being leaked that shouldn't have been released."