

Police Informer Escapes Blast

By **FRANK GREVE**
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A husky anti-Castro zealot and police informer escaped injury Tuesday in an explosion that crumpled the passenger-side floorboards of his car, drove lead shrapnel an inch into Flagler Street asphalt and made him laugh.

Miami Police Sgt. Mel Harris would only shake his head when asked if the bombing was connected to a wave of recent terrorism involving Cuban radical groups.

Ricardo (The Monkey) Morales Navarette, 35, who said it was the second attempt on his life in just over a year, said: "They want to get rid of me."

Morales, who declined to identify who "they" might be, said he'd driven about seven miles from his home at 801 NW 47th Ave. to the W. Flagler Street-Milam Dairy Rd. intersection when at 12:50 p.m. "there was this boom; and a flash of fire and I felt these little metal pellets sort of falling on me. There wasn't enough force for them to hurt.

"I THOUGHT there might be someone in a car behind me, waiting to finish

me off," Morales said, "so I turned the corner and drove on a little."

He got about 75 yards on Milam Dairy Rd. and could not have driven much further: the blast flattened all four tires on his leased blue and white 1974 Impala Custom, ruptured its gas tank and shattered the passenger-side window.

Asked to name the leasing firm, Morales demurred and chuckled. "They're going to give me trouble when I take it back," he said.

MORALES, who would describe himself only as "self-employed," was arrested in 1968 and described as a "key member" of a terrorist group which had bombed several local businesses trading with or aiding Castro Cuba.

He later proved the star witness in the trial of nine exiles involved in the affair and led by Dr. Orlando Bosch, a pediatrician turned exile-revolutionary. Bosch was released from prison late last year.

"I'm not saying that it's Dr. Bosch," Morales said as he stared at his disabled car, hands deep in the pockets of his blue windbreaker.