

# MONKEY, from 1A

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mechanically." *201*

"It's just a matter of time," Wesolowski said.

Friends of the admitted terrorist and informer said they doubted the official version of how he was shot.

"I find it hard to believe that he would get shot in a bar shooting," John Komorowski, Morales' attorney for the past four years, said yesterday. "He's too careful, he's too smart."

Morales had a gun tucked in an ankle strap, but never drew it, police said.

The man fled from the restaurant along with many of the patrons inside the bar. By the time police arrived only a handful were left.

Morales was the chief police informer in the celebrated Tick-Talks case, which led to the arrests of more than 40 suspects, mostly on drug charges. The case was thrown out in September when a judge ruled that 1,000 hours of taped conversations — obtained on the basis of Morales' information — couldn't be admitted into evidence, including tapes made from the bug in the ticking wall clock that gave the case its name.

The judge said Morales, an admitted murderer and terrorist who provided the explosives to blow up an airliner headed for Cuba in 1976, was too unreliable a government witness.

Morales, who changed allegiances the way others change shirts, had informed for most of the local, state and federal police agencies operating in Miami. Though he once fought for Fidel Castro, he became deeply involved in the violent side of anti-Castro exile politics in Miami and has worked for the CIA and the Venezuelan secret police.

News of Morales' shooting spread rapidly.

"Someone called me a six o'clock in the morning to tell me about it," said Jerry Sanford, a former federal prosecutor who became a friend of Morales. "He asked, 'Who do you think could have done it?' I said, 'How many points does a compass have?'"

Morales was using an identity provided to him under the witness protection program of the U.S. Marshal's office, Komorowski said. But Morales refused the government's attempt to relocate him to Spanish Harlem in New York City, Komorowski said.

And though the government had given him a new drivers license and other false identity papers, he had been unable to obtain new immigration papers, the lawyer said.

"He wanted to be here. He said he could take care of himself," Komorowski said.

Morales had been writing a book about his exploits, Komorowski said. The lawyer said the book, in outline stage, would have been "a barnburner... very explosive."

"He was up in New York in the beginning of November, talking to publishers," Komorowski said. "He was talking to two or three, playing each one off on the other. That was his style."

Komorowski called Morales "a real-life James Bond. He's been on every side there's been. Everything he does is for a reason — he's got a master plan. He's the consummate professional. You think that a guy as professional as he is, how's he going to get into a bar fight? He was never unprotected, he was never without a gun."