

Secret agent Morales... a man

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Globe-trotting secret agent Ricardo Morales Navarrete, who carried an expired badge as a high-ranking officer in the Venezuelan secret police when arrested here last week in a \$1.5 million marijuana bust, may now be a man without a country.

Documents found on Morales, known as The Monkey, "seem to indicate he is a Venezuelan citizen" but "he is a man without a country if he can't be deported and Venezuela will not have him back," Assistant State Attorney Sam Smargon said yesterday.

Although Morales, police say, carried a Venezuelan voter's registration card when he was arrested, his attorneys claim it is unlikely Morales would want to return there because Venezuela doesn't want him back.

Attorneys for the Cuban-born Morales, a former secret agent for Fidel Castro, a former CIA operative, and former FBI informant, were in Dade Circuit Court yesterday and were due back today in an effort to get his \$350,000 bond reduced.

They are arguing he is not likely to flee the country.

"It is my understanding his Venezuelan citizenship has been revoked," attorney John Komorowski told Judge Wilkie Ferguson yesterday. Despite Morales' past ties to the Castro government, Komorowski noted he "is still a Cuban refugee."



Morales

Morales is a man without a country if he can't be deported and Venezuela will not have him back, says an assistant state attorney

The 38-year-old Morales has been held in solitary confinement at the Dade County Jail since his arrest April 6, Komorowski said.

Prosecutors had requested the high bond on Mo-

without a country?

rales because Morales, a key FBI informant in the bombing case of Rolando Otero, failed to show up for Otero's federal trial, in which he was acquitted. Otero was convicted in a state trial on a bombing charge.

Morales' attorneys have subpoenaed Assistant State Attorney Hank Adorno to testify today. Adorno said he will testify Morales did not appear at the state trial of Otero because he was not subpoenaed.

Adorno, who also has been asked to testify for the prosecution about Morales' reliability, said Morales probably is in solitary confinement "for his own protection. There are a lot of people who don't like him, in and out of jail."

Investigators for the State Attorney's Office said yesterday they are probing how Morales most recently entered the United States and his current immigration status.

FBI agents, probing Morales's activities in the U.S. when he was working for the Venezuelan government, have expressed interest in the Venezuelan secret police badge Morales was carrying. The expiration date on the badge is Jan. 9, 1977.

U.S. Justice Department officials have said they are considering filing charges against Morales for alleged failure to register as a foreign agent in the U.S.

The Venezuelan badge and the voters registration card were presented by prosecutors in an earlier bond hearing before Judge Arthur Maginnis who raised Morales' original \$250,000 bond by \$100,000 last Friday.