

Three drug suspects had back

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Three of five men who allegedly plotted a 10-ton marijuana deal at the home of a reputed top drug dealer have backgrounds as police informants, according to court documents that reveal information about a police wiretap and surveillance on the home.

One of the three at the Nov. 14 meeting was globe-trotting secret agent Ricardo Morales (The Monkey) Navarrette, the documents say.

A combination of the wiretap, surveillance and a yet unnamed informant enabled police to monitor the activities at the home of Carlos Fernando Quesada, 1724 SW 16th St., the records state.

Quesada, who was charged with possession of a controlled substance after a March 25 raid on his home, is described in the documents as "one of the biggest dealers of cocaine in Miami."

The documents unsealed Tuesday also reveal the surveillance, wiretap and the informant enabled Miami police to make 10 arrests, including that of Morales, and seize about \$15.5 million in cocaine and marijuana in the past two months.

The wiretap on Quesada's telephone and the informant, the documents say, gave police information about drug transactions between Quesada and Rodolfo Rodríguez, arrested March 25 in his estate-like home here, where police seized \$913,000 in cash and 56 pounds of cocaine worth \$14 million.

The first tip to police about Quesada's alleged drug operation came from Jose Gonzalez Gonzalez, "Pepe Setenta" (Pepe Seventy), a disgruntled business associate and neighbor who had owned the Quesada home, the records say. However, according to the records, he



Ricardo
Morales
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Navarrette

was forced to give Quesada the home in payment for a drug deal.

Police obtained Gonzalez' cooperation after he was arrested for selling two gun silencers to Miami police officer Raúl Martínez, acting as an undercover agent, the records say.

The unnamed confidential informant, described as a close friend of Quesada's, was also one of the three with informer backgrounds present during the alleged 10-ton marijuana dealings Nov. 14. He had been working with the terrorism and security squad of Metro's Organized Crime Bureau since May 1975.

The third person in the Quesada home Nov. 14 was Franklin Sosa, 31, the records say.

Sosa was one of four men referred by a Metro police officer three years ago to the U.S. Drug Enforcement

grounds as police informants

Administration office here because he wanted to work with the DEA as a confidential informant, according to court depositions from a DEA agent and a Metro police officer.

The depositions give this account about Sosa's activities:

On Sosa's first meeting with the DEA, he volunteered some information on a Colombian drug deal and offered more details if he was hired as a paid informant.

DEA officials were processing Sosa and one of his associates to become informants when Sosa and his three partners were arrested in Miami Beach and charged with possession of cocaine and carrying a concealed weapon. The case was dismissed.

Sosa is identified in wiretap documents as having a "reputation within the law enforcement community as a higher echelon narcotics importer."

Sosa, who frequently visited the Quesada residence, had asked to borrow the truck later used by others to pick up bales of marijuana from 7400 SW 123rd Ave. where it had been held by Morales when he was arrested April 6, according to the wiretap documents.

According to the transcript of an intercepted conversation two days before Morales' arrest, Sosa requested the truck from Armando Rodríguez Feo, who agreed to leave it at the home of Sosa's father, at 1520 NW 125th St. The transcript describes the conversation:

Before reaching agreement on the truck, Rodríguez Feo and Sosa chided each other about their reputations as police informants.

"Your papers are of an informant in town," Rodríguez Feo told Sosa. "Your associate sent it out from the inside."

Sosa said it couldn't be but added, "You are the one that taught me... You were the one that got me in as an informant. The professor Armando Rodríguez

The Ugly On" (Feo in Spanish means ugly.)

The other two persons at the Nov. 14 gathering at the Quesada home were Francisco Rodríguez Tamayo, an informant, the records state.

Tamayo, known as "El Mejicano" (The Mexican), 46, has been arrested on three counts of weapons offenses and one count of extortion, but all cases were dismissed in court, the documents say.

He and Morales, a former secret agent for Fidel Castro and for the Venezuelan government, and a one-time FBI informant, also are described by police as "hit men."

In addition, the documents state that Tamayo provides Quesada "with a connection to the José Medardo Alvero Cruz organization."

Alvero Cruz, a Bay of Pigs veteran, convicted in 1969 of possession of marijuana and in 1972 of concealing assets to avoid paying marijuana excise taxes, was supposed to get a percentage of the 10-ton marijuana deal, according to the documents.

"Alvero Cruz would supply the marijuana shipment to Sosa and Quesada and they, in turn, would be responsible for the unloading and distribution," the confidential informant told police officers, according to the documents.

Tamayo "was acting as Alvero Cruz' agent," the document states.

Three of the five men plotting the drug deal, Quesada, Morales, and Tamayo, met again the next day at the Quesada home with two other men and "were engaged in sniffing cocaine."

In addition, Quesada had in his possession about 11 pounds of uncut cocaine, according to the documents, which added Morales told Quesada he wanted to keep about two pounds for himself.

"Morales personally inspected the plastic wrapping of one of the packages to insure the purity of the cocaine," according to the document.