

Drug suspect Morales also

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Ricardo (the Monkey) Morales Navarrete, arrested yesterday with three other men and charged with possession of 5,000 pounds of marijuana, is also the target of an investigation by the FBI — the agency he once worked for as an informant.



Morales

In addition to his work with the FBI, the 38-year-old Cuban has served as a spy for the Fidel Castro government, fought in Africa as a CIA operative and served as a high-ranking officer for the Venezuelan secret police.

County Court Judge Arthur Maginnis today boosted Morales' bond on the drug charges by \$100,000 to

\$350,000 on the urging of prosecutors who said Morales would flee the country if he made bond. In addition, the Justice Department is considering the possibility of filing charges against him for allegedly failing to register as a foreign agent.

Justice Department sources said Morales' frequent visits to Miami since 1976 were monitored by the FBI. He made the visits while serving with the Venezuelan secret police, the sources said.

William Richey, chief of the State Attorney's Office Organized Crime Division, said Morales, when arrested, was carrying a badge and an official card indicating he is still a high-ranking police official in Venezuela.

Morales drew a high bond, Richey said, partly because he had failed to appear as a government witness at Rolando Otero's trial after working as an FBI informant in a case against him. Otero, a Bay of Pigs veteran, was acquitted in a federal trial in which he had

FBI target

been charged with a series of bombings here, including a 1975 bombing at Miami International Airport. He was convicted of the airport bombing in a separate state trial last year.

Richey said the state felt Morales would flee the country and never return if a high bond was not set. "We will not get him back into the United States," Richey told the judge.

Metro Police Sgt. Raoul Diaz, who knows Morales well, told Judge Maginnis today that if Morales were able to make bond, he would leave and it would be impossible to get him back.

Morales' work as an FBI informant in 1968 was instrumental in the conviction of Orlando Bosch on terrorist charges. Richey emphasized that Morales was

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Correction

The Miami News reported Friday that Metro Police Sgt. Raul Diaz told a magistrate's court that suspected drug dealer Ricardo Morales would leave the country if released on bond. Diaz, who has known Morales a number of years, did not personally appear in court. Assistant State Attorney William Richey relayed the sergeant's remarks to the magistrate.

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MORALES, from 5A

not working as an informant in the marijuana case.

"He's definitely a part of the conspiracy . . . if he were an informant I would know," Richey said.

Morales, listed as unemployed in police records, is charged with conspiracy and with possession of marijuana in excess of 100 pounds, carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a firearm while committing a felony. Police said he was carrying a .45-caliber automatic when arrested.

Police identified the men charged with Morales as Carry Wayne Clark, 28, of 2240 NW 196th St., a carpenter; Edward Lewis Dunbar, 28, of 15935 SW 90th Ave., a carpet salesman, and Richard Joseph Prino, 29, a builder from Massachusetts.

They were charged with conspiracy to commit a felony and with possession of more than 100 pounds of marijuana. Bond for Clark and Dunbar was set at \$2,000. Prino's bond was raised to \$5,000 because

he is not a local resident.

Police believe Morales is an important middle man in an international drug operation involving several groups. "This is a very big investigation and we expect further arrests," Miami police investigator Raul Martinez said.

Metro was called in for support after a Miami police task force from the Special Investigation Section followed the 1978 Oldsmobile Morales was driving to a house at 7400 SW 123rd Ave. where the marijuana worth an estimated \$1.5 million was stored, police said.

They said a truck followed Morales' Oldsmobile to the house. Two men in the truck got out and started loading bales of marijuana into it, and Morales drove away. He was arrested at North Kendall Drive and 117th Avenue. He has been living at 2121 North Bayshore Dr. since February.

Though Morales was arrested before 7 a.m., he was not booked into Dade County Jail until 10:15 p.m.