

'French Connection' Informer is Freed

U.S. District Court Judge D. Dortch Warriner in Alexandria yesterday ordered ex-government informer Franklin Peroff released from jail while he appeals government action to have him extradited to Sweden on fraud charges.

Peroff, whose testimony in the early 1970s helped break open the so-called "French Connection" narcotics smuggling ring, had earlier been denied bond by another judge who said at the time he feared Peroff might "go underground" because his "cover is blown." Yesterday, Judge Warriner released Peroff on his own recognizance.

Peroff, 39, has been held in three different area jails since Feb. 18, when he was arrested on a Swedish warrant charging him with stock transfer fraud in the 1970s.

The arrest came seven days after Peroff tried unsuccessfully to get court-ordered federal protection after someone allegedly fired a shotgun blast at his automobile.

Peroff's attorneys have

argued that his life would be in danger if he is sent to Sweden. They have asked the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond to review the government's grounds for extradition.