

An Inflationary Girlfriend

CIA Funds Story Denied

Washington

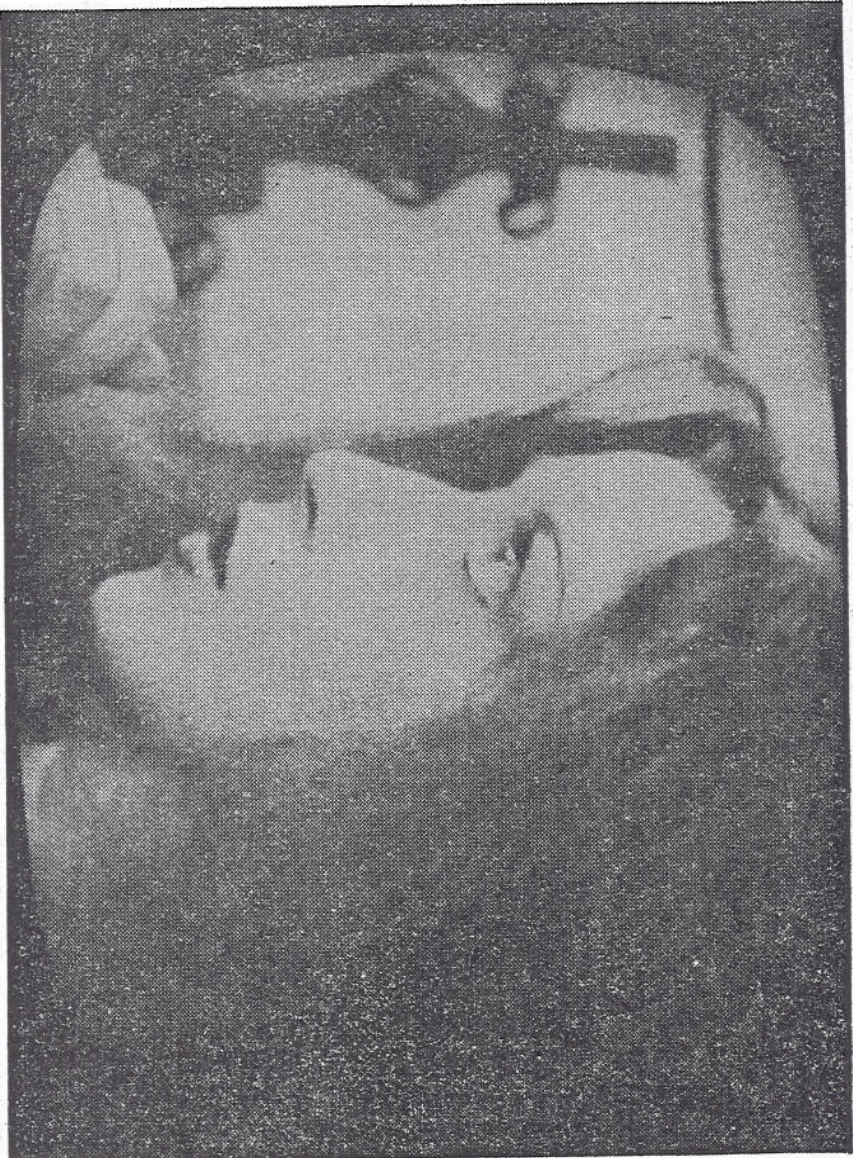
President Carter joked yesterday that, had the CIA given \$35,000 to \$40,000 to a Soviet defector to pay for the services of a hired female companion, it would certainly have violated his anti-inflation policy.

The President drew sustained laughter at his nationally broadcast new conference in replying to a question about the story told by Judy Chavez, a paid escort for a local firm.

Chavez told NBC News Monday that Arkady Shevchenko, a Soviet official who defected six months ago from his high-level post at the United Nations, had paid her that sum since his defection.

"If the figures the woman quoted were accurate, which they aren't, it would be highly inflationary," Carter said. "It's contrary to my policy there."

Carter noted that Shevchen-



JUDY CHAVEZ — AS SHE APPEARED ON A TV PROGRAM THIS WEEK

LPI Telephone

ko had received a large payment from the United Nations upon leaving, had several other bank accounts and is anticipating substantial advances on book contracts.

"The payments that we have made to him — the CIA — I'm not familiar with completely . . . but they don't equal what the woman said was paid for her services or favors," Carter said.

Smiling broadly, the President said he was "sure that CIA

Director (Admiral Stansfield) Turner would be glad to answer that question."

It is not an uncommon practice for the CIA to pay defectors, and such payments are known to have ranged as high as \$250,000.

Chavez told NBC that Shevchenko gave her \$500 a night after meeting her through an escort service and later paid her \$5000 a month. She also said that he gave her \$9000 to buy a sports

car and took her in June on a vacation in the Virgin Islands.

She said she learned the source of the money when FBI agents visited her to determine how much cash Shevchenko was giving her. "What they told me," she said, "was that Arkady goes to a high official in the CIA. He, in turn, gives the money to Arkady, who in turn gave the money to me."

After her story was broadcast, a CIA spokesman said the

agency keeps "pretty close tabs" on Shevchenko, although he is allowed to move about freely as he establishes a new identity in this country. "We are aware of what he is doing. What he does with his money is his business," the spokesman said.

After Shevchenko defected, there were reports from Moscow in May that his wife, Leongina, had died from an overdose of sleeping pills.

Associated Press