

Miamian Asserts I.R.S. Recruited Her To Spy Out Personal Data on Officials

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By R. DRUMMOND AYRES Jr.
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MIAMI, March 14—A Miami woman said today that she was recruited by the Internal Revenue Service in 1972 to take part in a widespread operation to gather information on the sex life and drinking habits of 20 prominent South Floridians, among them a state attorney involved in the Watergate investigation.

The woman, Mrs. Suarez, said she was recruited by the Internal Revenue Service and had been working as a secretary for the state attorney's office in Miami. She said that the operation was very close to her.

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Only on Tax Violations
The Internal Revenue Service normally gathers intelligence only on tax violations.

Local officials of the agency refused to comment on Mrs. Suarez's charges and referred all queries to their Washington headquarters. In Washington, a spokesman for the agency said its top officials were "in a meeting."

Six weeks ago, The Philadelphia Bulletin reported that a secret unit of the I.R.S. that allegedly had collected "personal information" on thousands

of American citizens in recent years had been ordered to disband and destroy its files.

The article indicated that this unit had operated in a number of cities, including Miami. It quoted sources who said that some of the unit's operatives had reported directly to the White House when Richard M. Nixon was President.

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Secret Contact
Another document appeared to be a receipt indicating that she had received a cash deposit of \$2,500 from the Internal Revenue Service, along with Mr. Lopez.

Mrs. Suarez, a 33-year-old divorcee, has made a sworn statement regarding her assertions to Richard Gerstein, the State Attorney for Dade County, who is one of the 20 persons she was told to watch.

Mr. Gerstein, an early investigator in the Watergate case because of its many Florida aspects, called this afternoon for a Congressional investigation of Mrs. Suarez's charges. "In the meantime," he said, "I'm conducting my own investigation to see if any local laws have been violated. I want to know if any tax people have threatened any bar owners or the like with tax suits or loss of licenses for failing to come up with information on people like me."

"All I can add is that I hope the secret files contain only the real facts on me, not my fantasies."

Mrs. Suarez said she apparently had been recruited by the I.R.S. because of an earlier undercover association with other Federal agencies, among

them the Drug Enforcement Administration, and because she had voluntarily approached the tax agency with information about a tax violation.

After joining the I.R.S. spying operation, Mrs. Suarez reported, she was given a code name—Carmen—and was told to recruit other undercover agents.

"I got two guys," she said, "one of whom had worked with me earlier on a narcotics case."

Mrs. Suarez did not disclose any other details of her contacts at the agency but said her first assignment was to investigate the "sexual hangups" of the people she was assigned to watch.

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Not Clear on Objective

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To make her job easier, Mrs. Suarez said, the I.R.S. gave her a car and membership in the Jockey, Palm Bay and Muthy Clubs, three of Miami's most exclusive organizations.

"I would go to these clubs and try to meet the people I was supposed to be watching," she said. "I didn't have a whole lot of luck."

"They also told me to get involved in parties because that would introduce me to a lot of people."

After three months of trying and producing little information she said, she told one of her contacts that she wanted to quit.

"I thought things looked fishy," she recounted, "but the contact became very angry and threatened me and my children."

Mrs. Suarez was reported today to be under police protection.