

Sexy 'Spy' for Cuba Was No Mata Hari

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Because it is on the ground floor, Suite 107 offers little privacy. One need only press an ear to the picture window at the rear of 2800 Wisconsin Ave. NW to hear what is going on inside the \$142-a-month efficiency apartment.

The suite hardly sounds like the den of a Mata Hari. Yet it was the residence until August of Jennifer Miles, the stunning, 26-year-old South African Embassy secretary accused of using her charms to spy on the U.S. for Havana.

Her amorous activities resulted in last month's expulsion of two Cuban United Nations diplomats and have generated numerous diplomatic squabbles and any number of theories on whom she was really working for. But officials involved in the case say Miss Miles was not a very good spy.

Those who were ac-

quainted with her say she is far prettier than her pictures indicate and describe her variously as "the most beautifully built girl I've ever seen," "the most lovely person I've ever met," and "the sweetest, kindest girl you can imagine."

Tall, blonde and wiggly, she wore miniskirts and low-cut dresses, liked to sun-bathe on the roof of her 10-story apartment building in a bikini, and captivated men and women alike with her bubbly personality.

"She took your breath away," said one of the many desk clerks who man the apartment house 24 hours a day. But although Jennifer Miles, who departed for Johannesburg in August, had many talents, spying was apparently not among them.

The full story of her adventures may never be told. But a high government official informed about the matter said, "This was no Mata Hari by any stretch of the imagination," referring to



JENNIFER MILES

... prettier than this

the German World War I spy who learned important secrets through her intimacies with high Allied officers.

"This was a girl who liked men, that's the sum and substance of it," the official said. "There are 10,000 like

her in Washington. She had illusions about spying and got herself in over her head."

The FBI doesn't waste time watching the other 10,000. Helped by wiring of Miss Miles' apartment, the handy picture window, and the apartment's resident manager ("I was just cooperating as they asked"), the FBI kept count of her beaux during her stay here, beginning in the middle of last year. The bureau stopped counting at 100.

What sparked the FBI's curiosity is not clear. The agency apparently picked up Miss Miles' trail before she unwittingly led them to one of the Cuban delegates at a meeting last year in an Astoria, Long Island, bar. It later developed that in 1967 and 1968 she had spent four months in Cuba, where she became sympathetic with the Cuban cause and was recruited as a spy.

See SPY, C2, Col. 4

SPY, From C1

Although the FBI refuses to comment, sources say Miss Miles never conveyed to the Cubans anything more titillating than intelligence published every day in American newspapers.

Intelligence experts discount the value of sex in spying, even using the best student of the intelligence craft.

"The old Mata Hari system is too hit or miss," said a State Department official. "The girls are hard to control, and they usually just report gossip. A man who picks up a girl these days gets suspicious right away if she launches into sensitive political discussions."

On the other hand, the official added, "some countries will try any means."

In Miss Miles' case, the FBI was so monumentally disinterested in her spying that it placidly watched her parade of dates for nearly a year without closing in. "If we had a spy on our hands, we'd pick him up right away," noted a government source.

And when the FBI did confront Miss Miles with her activities, a State Department employee who had been dating her found he had to call the FBI and ask to be interviewed so he could confess all.

There apparently was not much to confess.

'Amateur Night'

"It was amateur night," said the employee Saeed A. Khan, who lost his job as a State Department protocol officer less than a month after the Cubans were expelled.

Khan, a suave, 42-year-old former captain of the 6th Bengal Lancers, an elite regiment of the Pakistani Army, said he first met Miss Miles at a diplomatic recep-

tion last March.

Khan, who came to this country in 1956, said he didn't date her more than 12 times between March and the day she was confronted by the FBI in August.

"This was just the standard dating operation," Khan, a divorcee, said. "I was going out with seven other girls at the same time."

He added, "There wasn't even one indication (that she was spying, not one political discussion. Either she was in a cooling off period or she was a lousy spy."

Home Before 12

Khan said he normally took her to embassy parties and brought her home before midnight, engaging in light conversation.

"She was particularly interested at one point in a Washington Post series by Jim Hoagland on South Africa," Khan said. "She was definitely against apartheid (the South African policy of racial separation)."

Even if Miss Miles had asked about Havana, "I didn't know a thing about our diplomatic policy toward Cuba. All I know is we have no diplomatic relations and a blockade of the island."

Although Khan had top secret security clearance at the State Department, his job of arranging the visits of foreign dignitaries did not give him access to sensitive information, officials of the agency agreed. They said he acted "loyally" and is being given the best references for his job applications to other government agencies. He had been a contract employee and was to have been terminated last June 30, but his job was extended be-

cause of impending state visits.

"Spying is the name of the game in my business," Khan said. "You are always on the lookout. If I take a foreign embassy girl out and she picks up any rumors and reports them to the embassy, that's legal. The only difference is this girl reported to the Cubans."

She Called Khan

It was Khan whom Miss Miles called after the FBI confronted her with her activities Aug. 3.

"I met her the next evening (Aug. 4)," he said. "She said she was a spy and had told everything to the FBI, which tried to recruit her as a double agent. I said she should have bought them (the Cubans) a subscription to The (Washington) Post and the (Evening) Star. She said it (the spying) was a holdover from her acting days. She was very upset and crying."

The following day, she was sent back to South Africa, apparently by the South African Embassy.

Like Khan, most of the tenants and workers at Miss Miles' apartment were shocked to learn of her spying activities.

"She was very quiet. I always saw her coming home from work around five," recalled Martha Baez, whose apartment adjoins 107.

"I thought she was the perfect lady. She had a lot of boy friends," Akim Fazlul Bari, a desk clerk, said.

"She dated every night. She was the most friendly and prettiest girl I've ever known," said another desk clerk, Fred B. Jackson, 63.

Backed Revolution

Others recall that chauffeured limousines sometimes called to pick her up for her dates. Paul E. Müller, the desk clerk who works from midnight to 8 a.m., said, "She saw more men. There were very few nights she wasn't out with someone. Most of the time she'd invite them in when they got back."

The dates were mostly young men, well-dressed, and frequently Latin-looking, according to the desk clerks. Diplomats who remember Miss Miles from the Washington cocktail circuit said they were struck by her frequent disclosure that she supported the Cuban revolution.

The story of Jennifer Miles began to unravel Oct. 9, when the State Department announced that Rogelio Rodriguez Lopez and Orlando Prendes Gutierrez of Cuba's U.N. mission had been named persona non grata and given 48 hours to leave the country.

Without naming Miss Miles or her employer, State Department officials revealed in a briefing that a "quite attractive and personable" employee of a friendly country's embassy had relayed intelligence to the Cubans and that she apparently had been recruited during her four-month visit to Cuba. The two Cubans had been engaged in other intelligence activities, the officials said, but there was no elaboration by the State Department.

Because of the lack of diplomatic ties with Cuba, that country's U.N. representatives are restricted to New York.

"You can't just say about

someone in the U.N. that you don't want him because he's been a spy or been misbehaving," a State Department officer explained last week. "You have to substantiate the charge, and the other activities couldn't be disclosed."

The details of Miss Miles' story eventually leaked to the press, apparently from State Department sources, causing consternation at the South African and other embassies.

"South Africa had cooperated with the FBI from the beginning," an informed South African said, "and they were embarrassed the minute the story broke. They had been anxious to keep the whole thing quiet."

An official of the South African Embassy refused, in polite, clipped tones, to discuss any aspect of the case last week.

Because she led the FBI to the Cubans, was not a very good spy and gave the FBI a long confession, Miss Miles wasn't prosecuted and was allowed to return to her country.

Now living in Johannesburg with an unlisted telephone, Miss Miles has refused to discuss her adventures in the U.S. This week, she begins work as a reporter for The Sunday Times, a zippy, crusading Johannesburg newspaper.