

IRS Defends Halting Of Tax Haven Probe

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IRS Commissioner Donald C. Alexander yesterday defended his actions in temporarily suspending a large-scale probe of tax havens in the Bahamas.

At a press conference here Alexander and other senior IRS officials said that a confidential informant pilfered documents from a briefcase of a Bahamian bank official and that the suspension was ordered only to insure that the rights of those under investigation would be protected.

Alexander also charged that there is a "malicious effort" under way to discredit him and his policies, which include new guidelines to insure that evidence is gathered lawfully.

He said that "a few present and former IRS employees" do not share his view and

have been "circulating scurrilous and malicious rumors about my personal character."

In the past week a number of stories about Alexander have been printed and broadcast charging him variously with interfering with a Customs Bureau case and arranging to meet with a securities swindler to settle a large tax lien.

Several law enforcement sources, including some not necessarily Alexander supporters, have said most if not all of these allegations are unfounded.

Yet Alexander's decision to suspend the "Haven" project last month has angered many agents in the various intelligence units of the IRS.

"Haven," according to nu-

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