

CIA (S)

# Miami News Attacks

## Grand Jury Report

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MIAMI, Jan. 6 (AP)—Howard Kleinberg, editor of The Miami News, branded as ludicrous today the contents of a still secret Federal grand jury's report on the Internal Revenue Service's intelligence operations here, as described in The New York Times.

The Times reported in today's issue that the grand jury, after an 18-month investigation, "specifically accused The Miami News, which first disclosed details of Operation Leprechaun, of 'knowingly publishing false information' about the I.R.S.'s intelligence activities."

Allegations that the service's intelligence officers illegally wiretapped telephones, photographed bank records and threatened a businessman in the early 1970's operation were studied by at least three Congressional panels. The operation was aimed at 30 Miami residents, including city officials and Federal and state judges.

The Times said that some of the grand jury's report became known in Washington and elsewhere.

Mr. Kleinberg said that he had not seen the grand jury report. But he added, "If The New York Times is accurate in the report of the grand jury statement, I tell you flat outright that grand jury report is untrue."

He noted that, "While The Times story made a reference to two House panels whitewashing Operation Leprechaun, for some strange reason The Times failed to make mention of the U.S. Senate select committee report of April 23, 1976, which strongly condemns the I.R.S. and the Justice Department 'for their misdeeds in connection with Operation Leprechaun.'"

He said, "Therefore, I cannot conceive of a grand jury report which allegedly concludes that Operation Leprechaun did not violate the civil rights of taxpayers and that there was no evidence of agents gathering information for political purposes."

The editor said that if the grand jury "improperly criticized The Miami News with a one-sided report, we will take every legal step, like any other citizen, to defend ourselves."

"Any attempt to intimidate The Miami News from further investigative reporting will not succeed," Mr. Kleinberg said.