

IRS Political Spy Unit Is Reported

New York

Time magazine said yesterday the White House ordered creation of a special unit within the Internal Revenue Service in 1969 to collect data on extremist groups and individuals.

The magazine said the Special Services Group has so far collected files on 3000 organizations and 8000 individuals.

It said that not only radical organizations of both left and right were investigated, but also those "who organize and attend rock festivals which attract youth and narcotics."

Time said John J. Flynn, North Atlantic regional director of the IRS, wrote a memo January 12 detailing operations of the Special Services Group.

INTELLIGENCE

In it, Time said, Flynn wrote that the group worked closely with other federal investigative agencies and called it a "central intelligence-gathering facility within the IRS."

Neither Flynn nor other IRS spokesmen were available immediately for comment.

Flynn, according to Time, said the unit's purpose was to "receive and analyze all available information on organizations and individuals promoting extremist views or philosophies whether of the right or left without regard to the philosophy or political posture involved."

'NOTORIETY'

What counts, the memo reportedly said, is "the notoriety of the individual or organization."

These, Time said, were divided into violent and "so-called nonviolent" categories.

The memo, Time said, claims that "there is evidence from classified documents that transfers of large amounts of money to and from the USA are being used to establish and organize groups with the view of the overthrow of this government." *Associated Press*