

# CIA kept file on Bella Abzug

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Bella S. Abzug disclosed Wednesday that the CIA opened some of her private mail, reported on a meeting she had with Viet Cong representatives and collected her speeches and statements against the Vietnam war.

Mrs. Abzug, D-N.Y., held up the CIA file on herself and disclosed some of its contents at a hearing of the House subcommittee on individual rights, which she heads.

The file was provided by William E. Colby, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who outlined for the committee the list of files that the agency keeps on U.S. citizens and acknowledged that some material in them "may not be appropriate."

Mrs. Abzug said that the CIA file on her goes back to 1953, when as a lawyer she represented clients before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

She said it shows the CIA opened some of her private mail "involving solely my representation of clients in estate cases."

It contains a report on a meeting she and another congressman had with Viet Cong representatives, her attendance at a Women's Strike for Peace conference in 1967 and an antiwar speech at a demonstration in New York City in 1971, she said.

She said it also contains minutes of a secret meeting of an unidentified peace group.

"It is a reflection of the kind of activity that has to be ended on the part of the CIA," she said.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Senate committee investigating the CIA and other U.S. intelligence operations met with President Ford at the White House

and told reporters they got a qualified pledge of cooperation from the President.

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, the committee chairman, said that Ford expressed the desire to help them but would weigh their requests for information on a case-by-case basis.

During questioning at the House subcommittee hearing, Colby assured Mrs. Abzug that her files would not be continued.

But he said that some of the information on her is still being kept secret because it might disclose intelligence sources and methods.

"Are you suggesting that something in my file shows I was involved in anything improper?" she asked.

"No," Colby replied.

"Then you violated my right to privacy, did you not?" Mrs. Abzug asked.

Colby said he did not believe the agency had.

Colby said the Abzug file is one of four the CIA has on members of Congress. He said there also are references to some former members.

The letters were opened as part of a CIA program of opening mail from people in Communist countries, he said. The program was discontinued in February 1973.

The file on the meeting with representatives of the People's Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, the Viet Cong's political arm, resulted from CIA coverage of that organization, Colby said.

"We incidentally acquired the fact that you had contact with them," Colby said. "We were not following you."

The minutes of the secret antiwar group's meeting and the speech in New York City were not monitored by CIA agents, Colby said, but were received as reports from another agency that were distributed to "a number of agencies."

Colby also testified that the CIA concluded there was no substantial foreign manipulation of the U.S. antiwar movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

He has said the CIA's infiltration of 22 agents into antiwar groups and development of files on 10,000 citizens, grew from an effort to determine if there was manipulation of the antiwar activities.

"We determined to our satisfaction that it did not exist to any substantial degree," he said.

In his prepared testimony, Colby said the CIA has three major types of files not including such administrative categories as personnel and correspondence with congressmen.

The intelligence biography files contain "information of several million foreign political, military, scientific, economic, technical and cultural personalities," he said.

These include an unknown number of Americans, he said, because of foreign associations or because they may be a source of information.

"Or we may simply have made a mistake and have begun a record on a person whom we believed to be a foreigner but who is a U.S. citizen," Colby said.

He said the second major category contains biographies for foreign counterintelligence activities and the third contains the CIA's intelligence documents.