

NEW DATA FOUND IN C.I.A. PROJECT

Agency Has 2,000 More Files
on Interception of Mail

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The Central Intelligence Agency has found additional records on 2,000 persons whose mail was opened in its mail interception program after it had informed a court here six months ago that a search of its files had been complete.

The discovery came as the agency disclosed discrepancies between affidavits to the court and statistics on the number of records kept on a microfilm index, according to a report filed in Federal court here yesterday.

Besides the number of additional records uncovered—a small percentage of the 191,873 letters the agency now says it opened over the 20-year history of the program—the disclosure raises the issue of the C.I.A.'s in its responses to requests by individuals for information kept on them.

Name Not on File

This issue was first raised in a civil suit brought in Federal District Court here by Stephanie Kipperman, who was told by the C.I.A. that her mail to and from the Soviet Union over a 12-year period had not been intercepted because her name did not appear on their file index.

Mrs. Kipperman then brought suit against former officials of the C.I.A. and the United States Postal Service, contending that some of her correspondence must have been opened because of the scope of the agency's intercept program.

Affidavits of William E. Colby, former Director of Central Intelligence, and his aides stated that there was a microfilm index of the names of all those whose letters to the Soviet

Union were opened or whose envelopes were photographed. They said Mrs. Kipperman's name was not in that index.

Federal District Judge Charles B. Renfrew dismissed the suit last April 28 on the basis of those affidavits, saying he believed that the C.I.A. "has responded in good faith and with total honesty." He reopened the case on May 27 after the Department of Justice informed him that new information had been found.

In the report yesterday, the C.I.A. said that Mrs. Kipperman's name was not found in a check of the 2,000 newly discovered records.

Inspection Urged

Attorneys for Mrs. Kipperman have asked the court to permit them to look at the files or to appoint a neutral party to examine them.

It is not clear what effect the discovery of 2,000 additional files will have on the agency's program of responding to request by persons for information kept on them. As of last Feb. 15, more than 5,000 persons have asked for records on themselves; the C.I.A. says that it has found files on only 134 of them.

The C.I.A. report also mentions for the first time two other mail interception programs—in Miami after the Bay of Pigs operation in 1961, and in Panama in 1972. Until now, the only reported C.I.A. mail interception programs were in New York, San Francisco and New Orleans.

A spokesman for the C.I.A. said it would be inappropriate to comment while the case is in court.