

War Protest Data Reported on File

Washington

FBI, Central Intelligence Agency and Army computers still contain surveillance files on thousands of anti-war protesters despite official assurances four years ago that the files would be destroyed, NBC News reported last night.

NBC said the files grew out of the late President Johnson's directive to find out who was behind anti-war protests in the late 1960s.

Correspondent Ford Rowan said the Defense Department sent 1500 agents "into the field" in response to Johnson's order. Information was collected on various individuals and was stored in computers, Rowan said.

"In 1970, Senator Sam Ervin exposed the extent of Army spying. He got the Pentagon to promise to stop

its surveillance program and to destroy the files. But four years after the page 2 promise to Sam Ervin, the Army's domestic surveillance files still exist.

"By January of this year, the Army domestic surveillance files had grown to 600,000 entries on Americans and their protest activities."

Rowan said that "NBC News has learned that a new computer technology developed by the Defense Department enabled the Pentagon to copy, distribute and secretly update the Army files. And —our sources say — the Army's information on thousands of Americans protesters has been given to the CIA, and some of it is in CIA computers now."

Rowan said some of the material also is in "FBI and Secret Service files."

Associated Press