

The CIA Report

On Eartha Kitt

By Seymour M. Hersh
New York Times

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency, asked by the Secret Service in 1968 about Eartha Kitt, produced an extensive report containing second-hand gossip about the entertainer but no evidence of any foreign intelligence connections, a copy of the report showed yesterday.

The report, supplied a week after Miss Kitt criticized the Vietnam war at a White House luncheon during the Johnson administration, shows that the CIA had been collecting raw unevaluated data on her at least since 1956, eight years after she began appearing profes-

Back Page Col. 4

From Page 1

sionally in Europe and the United States.

The CIA report on Miss Kitt, which has been obtained by the New York Times, includes information about her from "confidential" sources in Paris and in New York City.

Under the 1947 National Security Act setting up the CIA, the agency was barred from any domestic police or internal security functions. The agency's counterintelligence division, however, has traditionally been responsible for monitoring the activities of Americans overseas who were suspected of becoming involved with foreign intelligence operatives.

The New York Times, quoting informed sources, reported December 22 that 10,000 files were maintained on dissidents until the practice was discovered in 1973 by James Schlesinger, then the CIA director.

The CIA report contained no information to suggest that Miss Kitt had any personal or other contact with foreign agents while entertaining overseas.

She did dance briefly, ac-

ording to the report, at the age of 20 with a dancing group whose leader was said to have served as a sponsor or endorser of a number of Communist-front activities" in 1948.

The three-page, single-spaced report then quoted a confidential source as saying in 1956 that "her escapades overseas and her loose morals were said to be the talk of Paris."

A spokesman for the CIA, asked about the agency's 1100-word report on Miss Kitt, said, "I'm not going to discuss the matter with you, sir."

Miss Kitt, reached by telephone yesterday at her home in Beverly Hills, said,



EARTHA KITT
A three-page report.

"I don't understand this at all. I think it's disgusting." She said the Times could publish as much of the CIA report as it saw fit.

The entertainer said that most of the statements about her childhood and career, as recorded in the CIA document, were incorrect.

The inquiry into Miss Kitt originated after she shouted angrily at Mrs. Johnson during a luncheon on Jan. 18, 1968, that the nation's youth were rebelling because they were being "snatched off to be shot in Vietnam."

Secret Service sources acknowledged that the inquiry into Miss Kitt's background and any possible threat to the President and others under Secret Service protection was initiated the next day.

The Times obtained the report on Miss Kitt from Jack Anderson, the syndicated columnist, who obtained it in November, 1972, and later wrote a column — without identifying Miss Kitt — about the CIA intelligence.

At the time, however, Anderson wrote that "we have confirmed that the CIA doesn't keep files on American citizens, except for security files on its own personnel."