C.I.A. Opened Bella Abzug's Mail, Kept 20-Year File

## Angry Congresswoman Tells Colby Actions Are Outrageous

## By JOHN M. CREWDSON Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 5-The Central Intelligence Agency acknowledged today that it maintained a dossier for more than 20 years on Representative Bella S. Abzug, that included the contents of letters she had written on behalf of clients while she was a practicing lawyer.

The C.I.A. also acknowledged that it had opened some of the mail of the Manhattan Democrat and had retained copies of her letters in its files.

Mrs. Abzug said at a House subcommittee hearing that she had received from William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, some but not all of the documents contained in at least two separate C.I.A. files bearing her name.

The file entries, she said, dated as far back as 1953 when, as a lawyer, she represented a client before the now-defunct House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Subsequent entries included the contents of two letters she had written to an arm of the



Representative Bella S. Abzug questioning William E. Colby, chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, about its files on her. The occasion was a House hearing yesterday.

had written to an arm of the Soviet Government in 1958 and Subcommittee on Government drummed his fingers on the 1960 on behalf of clients of Soviet Government in 1958 and 1960 on behalf of clients of Russian ancestry. Mrs. Abzug was trying to locate other po-tential heirs in an estate case. "To find myself in your files is outrageous," Mrs. Mrs. Mrs. Abzug that "a consider-ing mail of a lawyer represent-Abzug stormed at Mr. Colby, ing a client is clearly illegal." Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual witness table during some of her outbursts, conceded to Mrs. Abzug that "a consider-able amount of the material in your file should not be in there." He also acknowledged that, Continued on Page 24, Column 6

agency's operations against Vietnam war dissidents.

clude that there had been "no substantial foreign manipula-lit," he replied. tion of or assistance to the antiwar movement.'

included details on her Paris lic "intelligence sources and meeting in 1972 with representatives of the Provisional

That file, she said, also inmailing list of the World Peace amenaeu tion Act. Council, the minutes of a meet-ing of the Vietnam Mobiliza-tion Committee, once a leading antiwar group, and a report on on 10,000 Americans as part of it interview. Council, the minutes of a meet-

Abzug made available to reporters, read in part:

"Women Strike for Peace [WSP[ demonstrates at New

Her voice rising in anger, He would not identify the Colby that her file contained a request from two Congresthree others, but said that one the names of people 'attending sional committees investigating was no longer living. Colby said the conference of the Women intelligence activities that all that the operation, which he Strike for Peace, and she desaid was terminated in March, manded to know how the file their inquiries be preserved. 1974, had led the C.I.A. to con-had been obtained. Mr. Colby said that he had

"I do not know how we got

Some Data Withheld .

Tr counterintelligence file, portions of which were also some of the contents of her supplied by the C.I.A. to Mrs. files on the ground that, if dis-Abzug, a vocal antiwar figure, closed they would make pub-But he said that the C.I.A.

would make available to Ameri-Revolutionary Government of can citizens upon request the can citizens upon request and continue to conduct counter, nonsensitive portions of any intelligence operations abroad, files the agency had compiled and to record and preserve the and to which they and to record and preserve the cluded such items as the names on them and to which they of American lawyers on the were entitled under the newly amended Freedom of Inform-

antiwar group, and a report on on 10,000 Americans as part of a speech she made in front of the New York City Public Li-brary. The last report, which Mrs. Abzug made available to rea Mr Cohy appended by the speeded here in the speeded here is th

Mr. Colby repeatedly rejected a suggestion from Mrs. Abzug and other members of her com-mittee that the C.I.A. had abused its legislative prohibi-York City. Placards carried by tion against domestic police the demonstrators called on functions in surveillance of the

the demonstrators called on Congress to set a definite date for United States withdrawal from Southeast Asia. "The demonstrators were ad-dressed by Congresswoman Bella Abzug, who told them an the last 27 years may not be antiwar coalition in Congress appropriate today ...." And

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7 would force withdrawal from he added that "a number" of Southeast Asia." such files had been destroyed.

The destruction has been Mrs. Abzug pointed out to Mr. halted temporarily, he said, by agency records relevant to

> "directed, however, that the segregation process continue in the belief that, after the inves-tigations are completed, the best disposition of these ma-terials is destruction."

> Asked by Mrs. Abzug, a Democrat, whether that meant that the C.I.A.'s files would eventually be purged of all reference to the political activities of American citizens. Mr. Colby replied that it did not.

The C.I.A., he said, would continue to conduct counternames of any American citizens found to be engaging in ques-

found to be engaging in ques-tionable political activities. "You say you're not going to do it anymore," Mrs. Abzug said, "and yet you are going to do it." "I said we're not going to do the questionable things," Mr. Colbby responded

Colbby responded.