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## \$500 Million Is Sought in U.S. Spying

By Timothy S. Robinson  
Washington Post Staff Writer

A lawsuit was filed in federal court here yesterday charging the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency with conducting a massive, illegal spying campaign on antiwar activists in the late 1960s and early 1970s and seeking \$500 million in damages.

The suit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of 8,200 individuals and groups on whom the CIA and NSA reportedly maintained files, opened mail and intercepted messages and telephone calls.

The suit is based largely on information growing out of the Rockefeller commission's report in June on the U.S. CIA's domestic surveillance activities. The report confirmed the existence of a program known as "Operation Chaos." The groups and individuals listed as plaintiffs in yesterday's suit reportedly were watched as a part of that program.

Named as defendants are past directors and other top-ranking officials of both government spying agencies, as well as four international communications networks which supposedly aided in the illegal interception of messages being sent overseas by the plaintiffs.

The suit claims the plaintiffs became the topics of "watch files" or "subject files" in the CIA because of their opposition to the war in Indochina in the late 1960s. The CIA then supplied a "watch list" to the NSA so the NSA could intercept international messages and telephone calls placed by persons on the list, the suit continued.

According to the Rockefeller commission report, the CIA began "Operation Chaos" to gather information on the "foreign contacts" of American citizens here who were protesting the Vietnam war. As a part of that program, more than 40 undercover agents reportedly infiltrated domestic antiwar organizations.

The program also included illegal opening of first-class mail with the contents copied and placed in Chaos files, the suit alleged. Reportedly aiding NSA in the interception of overseas messages were Western Union Telegraph Co., RCA Global Communications, Inc., American Cable and Radio Corp., and ITT World Communications, Inc., according to the suit. The four companies were named as defendants.

NSA turned over to the CIA more than 1,100 pages of summarized conversations that had been illegally overheard, the suit claimed.

The suit seeks \$50,000 in punitive damages for each plaintiff, as well as \$100 a day for the duration of any illegal interceptions of wire or oral communications.