

# CIA Expected to Admit Opening

By Leroy F. Aarons  
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Government documents expected to be filed this week in U. S. District Court here will acknowledge that the Central Intelligence Agency intercepted and read personal mail sent to actress Jane Fonda from overseas.

The government has already admitted that other federal agencies kept files on her and that the FBI was given access to her bank accounts.

Ms. Fonda was a militant activist against American war policy in Vietnam in the early 1970s. She is seeking \$2.8 million damages in a civil lawsuit

charging federal officials, including former President Nixon, with conspiracy to harass and intimidate her for her criticism of the U.S. war effort.

The CIA admission would reverse the government's previous position denying that any of its agencies opened private mail addressed to the actress. Leonard Weinglass, one of her attorneys, said he was informed of the admission last week by Edward Christenbury, a Justice Department lawyer representing the CIA.

Christenbury refused to talk to reporters, but it was learned from official sources that the department would file the CIA document this week.

It could not be immediately

determined whether the Fonda mail cover was done inside or outside the United States. Weinglass said it must have been done domestically because "it is physically impossible to intercept an individual's mail at any of the international trans-shipment points, since letters are not individually sorted but are in sacks. The procedures which the FBI employs involve utilization of the local post office of the addressee. I assume that the CIA followed the same procedure."

Alleged domestic surveillance by the CIA in violation of its charter, which limits its activities to matters abroad, is currently under investigation

by the administration and Congress.

The expected CIA filing will add to a growing list of documents and depositions on file in the Fonda case, which, taken together, reveal a pattern of intense government surveillance of the actress' activities, Weinglass said.

Court files show that the government has admitted that:

- Dossiers on Ms. Fonda are or have been kept by the FBI, the Secret Service, the CIA, the State Department, and, in at least one instance, by the White House.

The State Department file, in its office of security, was started in June, 1968, long before Ms. Fonda became a vocal antiwar activist.

## Fonda Mail From Abroad

The FBI obtained access to bank records belonging to Ms. Fonda, and without warrant or subpoena, made monthly notes on her personal and professional transactions between 1970 and 1972. These included checks drawn on her account to such organizations as the Black Panther Party, the National Welfare Rights Organization and others.

Henry J. Rohlf, a former executive vice president of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, admitted in a deposition that he granted the FBI access to Ms. Fonda's records without demanding a warrant or subpoena, the process required by the bank's regulations. He

made the exception, he said, because the FBI told him it was "a matter of national security."

Other records, from an account held for Ms. Fonda in the City National Bank of Los Angeles, were made available to the FBI without warrant.

• In November, 1970, customs agents searched Ms. Fonda's bags at Cleveland International Airport on her return from a visit to Canada. In the course of the search, an address book was copied without her knowledge and turned over to the FBI, which disseminated the names and addresses to "certain government agencies," according to a

government document on file in federal court here.

• In the course of bugging the phones of other individuals, the FBI admitted overhearing more than 40 conversations during 1970 and 1971 in which Ms. Fonda was a participant. In 11 of those instances, the substance of the conversations was distributed to government agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service, the Defense Department, the Secret Service, the CIA, the State Department and the Air Force Office of Special Investigation.

In their admissions to these and other allegations, government lawyers argue that the activities were legal and

proper and did not violate Ms. Fonda's constitutional rights.

The lawsuit, joined also by the American Civil Liberties Union, is expected to take several years to litigate because of its complexity and the number of defendants involved. In addition to the former President, the suit names numerous members of the Nixon administration, including former acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III, former White House aides John W. Dean III, John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, former Attorneys General John N. Mitchell, Richard G. Kleindienst and Elliot L. Richardson, and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.