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Inquiry on Lennon Disclosed

LOS ANGELES, June 25 (UPI) — The Central Intelligence Agency joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in gathering intelligence on John Lennon because the agencies feared he would disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention, according to a historian who has written about Mr. Lennon. The intelligence agency asked the

bureau for information about Mr. Lennon's ties to a group that was planning demonstrations at the convention, the historian, Jon Wiener, said Friday. He cited previously classified documents he obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Wiener said that in one of five heavily censored documents released by the intelligence agency, J. Edgar Hoover, the F.B.I. Director, wrote that the investigation of Mr. Lennon's antiwar activities "must be handled on an expedite basis and by mature, experienced agents."

Mr. Wiener requested the documents as part of his research for a recently published book on Mr. Lennon, the former Beatle who was slain in 1980. Mr. Wiener said he received 26 pounds of F.B.I. and Immigration and Naturalization Service documents last year.

But Mr. Wiener said the bureau withheld some documents in the Lennon file for national security reasons. He sued the agency in 1983 for release of materials. At a hearing in March, Federal District Judge Robert M. Takasugi ordered the bureau to justify why it was withholding any Lennon material.

"This is the first acknowledgement by the C.I.A. that the agency also participated in the Nixon era campaign to neutralize Lennon's antiwar activities," said Mr. Wiener, a professor at the University of California, Irvine.