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CIA provided girls for Hussein, says report

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

THE latest instalment of American intelligence secrets, including covert payments to foreign leaders and the provision of female companions for King Hussein, has been made public through a Congressional leak of an entire 338-page report of unrelieved criticism of the CIA.

The report, by the House Intelligence Committee, is still officially supposed to be secret.

It disclosed that American intelligence operations cost \$10,000 million a year (about £5,000 million) three to four times the amount listed in the budget—and that a third of covert operations involved subventions for foreign political parties.

Among the report's revelations was that Robert Maheu, a former assistant to Howard Hughes, arranged to supply female companions to King Hussein of Jordan and other foreign leaders, and that the girls were paid for with Federal funds.

According to an excerpt from the report, published yesterday in the *New York Times*, Mr Maheu's procurement of women on behalf of the CIA took place around 1957 at about the time that he produced for the agency a pornographic film entitled "Dirty Harry".

The film starred an actor who closely resembled the late President Sukarno and the film was made with the intention of embarrassing him.

The names of Maheu, Sukarno and King Hussein were excised from the report but were provided by "sources familiar with the House paney's investigations."

'Biased and irresponsible'

The draft report has been denounced by Mr William Colby, the outgoing director of the CIA, as "biased and irresponsible." He said the disclosures of the agency's sensitive activities would harm American foreign policy.

The leaked report, ironically, contains a proposal recommending criminal penalties for any Congressman or their staff who release names of intelligence agents or other secret information, as well as the removal from intelligence committees of Congressmen who disclose such information.

The report revealed that America had secretly supplied \$75 million (about £37,500,000) to Italian political parties and leaders since 1947 including \$10 million last year.

The CIA had also given one unidentified Third World political leader \$960,000 (£480,000) in aid over 14 years and that several other foreign Heads of State had been financially supported for over a decade.

The report also discloses that Secretary of State Dr Kissinger received valuable oriental rugs and his wife a gold and pearl necklace for their wedding from Mullah Mustapha Barzani Kurdish rebel leader, shortly before America cut off all aid to the Kurds.

The House report refers to CIA financial support to friendly foreign news media and says the largest single recipient of such funds was an unidentified European publishing house that since 1951 had been financed entirely by the CIA.