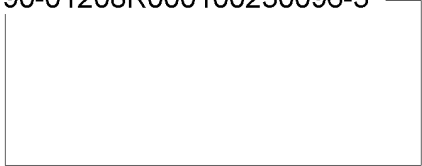


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12 MAY 1977



'Humiliated' by the CIA

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Brooklyn—The three plaintiffs seeking damages because the Central Intelligence Agency opened their mail testified yesterday in federal court that they were frightened and disillusioned and, in one case, humiliated, when they learned federal agents had read their letters.

Mary R. MacMillen, 26, a Cambridge, Mass., job placement counselor, said a personal letter she sent to a Russian dissident was opened by CIA agents in 1973 just before the 20-year U.S. program of surveillance of mail to and from the Soviet Union was ended. Ms. MacMillen testified that after she learned, in a CIA response to her Freedom of Information Act request, that her letter had been opened, "I felt embarrassed and humiliated. It was the most personal letter I had ever written."

The two other plaintiffs, Amherst College sociology professor Norman Birnbaum and Minneapolis advertising executive Leonard Avery also described their letters, which were opened by the CIA. Government lawyers suggested only a nominal award of \$1. The plaintiff's lawyers have asked for \$20,000 or more for each complaint.

—Aric Press