Around the Nation

Grand Jury Probe Of Panther Raid Set

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CHICAGO — Chief Criminal Court Judge Joseph Power yesterday ordered a special Cook County grand jury impaneled to investigate last December's police raid on a west side residence where two leaders of the Black Panther Party were killed.

Power ordered the jury impaneled Dec. 7 at the request of Barnabas Sears, a special investigator appointed June 26 to enter the case after a federal grand jury report failed to recommend indictments for either police or surviving Panthers.

Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed by police gunfire in the pre-dawn raid. The federal investigating panel criticized the state's attorney's office and other police for poor handling of information in the incident, and criticized Panthers for refusing to testify before the jury.

Seven surviving Panthers were charged with attempted murder, but the charges were dropped for lack of proof.