

FBI Lists 1,300 Americans To Watch in Emergency

The FBI maintains a list of some 1,300 Americans who would be put under "priority investigative coverage" in a national emergency, according to FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley.

Kelley said the list does not include nonviolent protesters and dissenters, but "only those individuals who pose a realistic, direct and current danger to the national security."

Kelley's memorandum disclosing existence of the

"security index" was made public Wednesday by Chairman Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wis.) of the House civil liberties subcommittee.

The FBI director gave no names, citing security and individual privacy rights, but said 1,537 names were on the list as of Jan. 1 and 1,294 were on it as of Aug. 15.

"Individuals who are included," Kelley said, "are those who have exhibited a willingness or capability of

engaging in treason, rebellion, sedition, sabotage, espionage, assassination of government officials, terrorism, guerrilla warfare or other acts which would result in interference with or a threat to the survival and effective operation of national, state or local government.

"Individuals are not included on this index merely because of opposition to government policies or because they exercise their constitutional rights of protest or dissent," Kelley said.

He also said membership in subversive organizations does not by itself put people's names on the list. The list is a record of people who would be put under "close investigative attention pending legal steps by the President to take further action," Kelley said.

"It also serves as an extremely valuable list of individuals who pose a threat to the safety of the President of the United States," he said, adding that the FBI provides data on the individuals to the Secret Service.

Kastenmeier praised Kelley for providing the information, but said "it is an unfortunate comment on the mentality of our national security establishment that it has taken nearly 30 years for the existence of the national security index to be publicly disclosed.

"Although the executive branch does not now assert the authority to suspend the Bill of Rights and incarcerate Americans at its discretion, the fact that it continues to actively maintain a list which had its genesis in a plan to systematically imprison thousands of political dissenters in the early days of the Cold War is fact which demands thorough congressional scrutiny and public discussion," Kastenmeier said.