

FBI Director Justifies Raid On Alexandria Apartment

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FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley released an eight-page justification yesterday for the bureau's forced entry March 15 into an Alexandria apartment in a futile hunt for fugitive newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst.

The decision to break in was made, the statement says, because of the "definite air of authenticity" of the anonymous tip that led the FBI to the apartment.

In addition, the FBI said, "reasonable ... efforts to question the occupant(s) of the apartment had been repelled," and the Symbionese Liberation Army, which Miss Hearst has said she joined, has "a virtual suicidal compulsion toward violence."

"The two agents and two (Alexandria police department) detectives at the scene ... were confronted with making an on-the-spot decision," the statement says. "(They) chose to force the



PATRICIA HEARST
... latest FBI sketch

door as they had reason to believe that Patty Hearst was in the apartment and their action would reduce the potential for violence."

The break-in by the four, guns drawn, took place about 10:30 p.m. at apartment 10, at

649 Notabene Dr., in the Alexandria section of Alexandria. Home alone in the apartment was Elizabeth Norton, 21. Miss Norton's roommate, Bernadine Davis, 24, who the FBI later said closely resembles Patty Hearst, was not home.

Miss Norton's attorney said later that Miss Norton had asked the agents to slip their identification cards under the door but that they had refused because "The last time we did that ... agents got shot."

Kelley's statement says the agents could not show Miss Norton their identification cards because the door had no peephole and there was not enough space to slide a badge or card beneath the door.

It says the FBI was acting on an anonymous tip received at 8:13 p.m. The caller's information contradicted no information the FBI had to date about Miss Hearst, and, in fact, confirmed the bureau's latest, unpublicized information, that Miss Hearst had cut her hair, it says.