

Budget Restriction Cited

FBI Director Wants More Anti-Spy Agents

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By Bob Kuttner
Washington Post Staff Writer

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley yesterday warned that the FBI doesn't have enough agents to keep track of the growing number of foreign spies in the United States, and said he is considering asking for 250 new agents to work just on internal security.

Kelley's comments came at a luncheon for reporters who regularly cover the Justice Department. It was the second such gathering this year.

Covering a wide variety of topics, Kelley told reporters:

- The FBI should play a greater coordinating role in local law enforcement by serving as a clearinghouse, but not to the extent of becoming a national police force. He disclosed that the FBI's data banks now have reports on some 60,000 local police projects to exchange among police departments.

- The FBI has no explanation for the per cent jump in serious crimes reported during the first half of 1974, but he is certain that the decline reported during 1972 was not an election-year statistical manipulation.

- He opposes privacy legislation that would permit federal employees to see comments in their files obtained from informants during pre-employment investigations. He also rejects proposals to expunge arrest records where no conviction resulted, because frequently "the arrest in itself was a good arrest."

- The FBI has no new information on kidnaped heiress Patricia Hearst. "I'd like to say

'Patty, come on in,' " Kelley said, gesturing at the doorway.

- He still supports efforts to permit the FBI to wiretap without warrants in "domestic subversion" cases, and opposes pending legislation to require court approval for national security wiretaps, which are now allowed without a warrant.

The FBI found no links between the Symbionese Liberation Army and any foreign power, Kelley said. "Had there been any, we might have gotten warrantless tapping."

He said his speech last week to the American Legion warning about increased espionage was prompted in part by concern about new restrictions on wiretapping.

Kelley told reporters there is a growing gap in the ratio of FBI agents to Communist diplomats and visitors all of whom he called "potential agents gathering information."

The best system would be "one FBI agent for each espionage agent," Kelley said, but "our budget doesn't allow it." He declined to say whether Communist diplomatic representation should be reduced, terming that a subject "in the area of detente."

As part of the FBI's stated new policy of openness with the public and the press, Kelley invited reporters to interview any of the bureau's assistant directors, and to visit the FBI Academy at Quantico, Va.