

Transcripts Barred To FBI Probers

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RICHMOND, April 16 (UPI)—A federal judge today decided not to allow the FBI access to secret transcripts to aid the investigative agency in taking administrative action against its agents in the Richmond wiretap case.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr. noted in denying the government's plea for access to the grand jury proceedings that the FBI is supposed to be "the greatest investigative body in the world.

"It almost borders on the ridiculous to me," said Merhige, "for the FBI to come and say we have three or four people here we need to take administrative proceedings against and we need the grand jury minutes to do it."

The judge agreed with Assistant U.S. Attorney Rod Sager and attorneys for other government employees involved in the wiretap case that the FBI and the government showed no compelling need to break grand jury secrecy.

At the conclusion of the lengthy grand jury probe April 7, the Justice Department said it would not seek criminal indictments against the FBI agents and Justice Department employees involved.

But the department said it would seek to start administrative proceedings.

The alleged victim of the spying, a Palestinian refugee named Jamil Ramadan, has filed suit against police, the agents and others for \$3,015,000 damages in the affair.