Justice to Probe 2 Panther Deaths

The Justice Department said | Mark Clark, a downstate yesterday that its civil rights leader, were killed Dec. 4 in a division will make a preliminary investigation into last to search for concealed weapweek's fatal shooting of two ons. The raid turned up 14 leaders of the Black Panther party by Chicago police.

Federal lawyers and FBI agents will look into charges of "murder" by Panther officials and other Chicago black leaders to see if there is a basis for federal prosecution, a department spokesman said here.

Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan had welcomed the investigation by the division because, he said, it was a "reliable, objective agency." Assistant State Attorney General Frank McGarr announced that the investigation was undertaken by agreement with U.S. Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard.

Officials declined to say what federal charge could tigation. form the basis of the Justice Department investigation. However, a reconstruction era statute prohibits summary punishment by persons acting leaders as saying the Panthers under color of law. Congress increased the law's penalties among Negroes for their claim last year to a maximum of life that the militants needed huge imprisonment if death results.

Fred Hampton, chairman of the Panthers, and police attacks.

pre-dawn shootout with police who were executing a warrant guns and about 1000 rounds of ammunition.

The clamor for an investigation included requests for participation by several other federal bodies as well as the Justice Department. Some said Congress should investigate, some suggested the national violence commission that went out of business yesterday and Panther spokesman, some charging "genocide," said it was a problem for the United Nations.

Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-III.) said in a morning press conference that the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, an independent agency headed by the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University, should conduct the inves-

Percy also said the Panthers have gained credibility as the result of the shootout, Percy said. He quoted city black winning acceptance were stores of shotguns and other Illinois weapons for protection agains