

FBI Probes Coalition Planning July 4 Rally

By Margot Hornblower
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, May 28—The FBI is investigating a coalition of 130 radical and liberal organizations that is planning a massive demonstration in Philadelphia on July 4.

The July 4th Coalition, led by Puerto Rican Socialist Party activists, includes such groups as the Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement, the National Coalition of Gay Activists, other civil rights

organizations and pacifist groups.

Justice Department spokesman Robert H. Feldkamp said the investigation began after Attorney General Edward H. Levi wrote FBI Director Clarence Kelley Tuesday requesting a 30-day "preliminary inquiry" to determine if there is factual basis for allegations against the July 4th Coalition.

He declined to specify what those allegations are, what prompted the prober

or what investigative tools are being used.

Alfredo Lopez, the coalition's national coordinator, predicted at a press conference here today that 60,000 people will march in Philadelphia on the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence to protest "colonialism" in Puerto Rico, racism, sexism, social program cutbacks, unemployment and military spending.

FBI spokesman John Harting said, "This week at the specific request of the Investigative Review Unit of the Department of Justice, the FBI initiated a possible civil-disorder type inquiry concerning the activities of the July 4th Coalition on the Fourth of July."

At the press conference coalition leaders charged that since March the FBI has been "systematically harassing" them in an attempt to disrupt the planned demonstration and link it with terrorist activities.

They said FBI agents have visited Lopez, Puerto Rican Activist Martha Schwartz, Joe Waller of the African Peoples Socialist Party and more than a dozen members of the coalition's Philadelphia office.

"The FBI wishes to scare people, intimidate us, damage our prestige, drain our energies," Lopez said.

Lopez categorically denied that any members of the coalition are involved in terrorist activity. "we are intensely involved in organizing a massive, peaceful and orderly demonstration, with full permits from the City of Philadelphia," he said.

The coalition attacked as a "smear attempt" federal government documents, reported in a May 16 Jack An-

derson column, linking the Puerto Rican Socialist Party with a Puerto-Rican terrorist group.

With a budget of several hundred thousand dollars, the coalition has contracted for buses to transport demonstrators from 60 cities including Washington, Boston, Denver and Los Angeles. Lopez would not reveal the sources of coalition funding.

Peace activist David Dellinger and other coalition leaders said the demonstration is an effort to rally disparate radical movements. "We've been fragmented. One of the main significances of July 4th is to try to put it back together again," he said.

"We're not going to celebrate a flawed and incomplete American Revolution," said Dellinger, "but to join in aspirations for equality. We're going to expose the terrorism of the government."

The group plans a five-hour demonstration July 4, beginning at 1 p.m. A parade down Columbia Street will be led by 2,000 Indians, Lopez said, "because this is their country."

After the parade, folk and rock singers are scheduled to perform at Fairmont Park, President Ford is scheduled to speak at the city's official bicentennial celebration on the other side of the city.