

## FBI Watched JDL Figure Before It Was Requested

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BALTIMORE, Nov. 16—The FBI already had a file on William R. Perl, founder of the Washington branch of the Jewish Defense League, when the agency was asked to investigate Perl's involvement in an alleged scheme to harass Soviet diplomats, an FBI agent testified today.

Agent Harry Steevak testified that the FBI had been collecting information on such "lawful and nonviolent activities" as panel discussions and lectures attended by Perl, who

founded the Washington JDL in 1971. He said the file also contained photographs of the 70-year-old psychologist and his sons Solomon and Raphael.

Steevak's testimony came at the second day of Perl's trial in U. S. District Court here on charges that he conspired in a scheme to shoot a rifle at apartments rented by Soviet Embassy personnel in Hyattsville last May.

The agent said the FBI was asked to look into Perl's possible involvement in the scheme by the Israeli Embassy, which had been told about it by Reuven Levto, who once worked as a chauffeur there.

According to prosecution arguments to the jury on Monday, Perl asked Levto to participate in the scheme. The defense argues that Levto contacted Perl, and not the other way around. Levto is expected to testify on Wednesday, and Assistant U. S. Attorney Jeffrey S. White said recordings Levto made of his conversations with Perl will be played for the jury.

According to Steevak, when the FBI got the request from the Israeli Embassy, it put Perl under surveillance and enlisted the aid of Levto in obtaining a .22 caliber rifle, bullets and tape recorded conversations that led to Perl's indictment.

Perl, of 3901 Harrison Rd., Beltsville, was indicted on June 29 on four conspiracy counts alleging he obtained a stolen rifle and then directed Levto to fire it into two apartments at 3450 Toledo Ter., Hyattsville. The occupants of the apartments were Soviet diplomats Rimgaudas K. K. Malishauskas and Ivan I. Zavrazhnov.

Levto never fired the rifle at the apartments because he had begun cooperating with the FBI, according to opening statements. Instead, Levto fired an air pistol, although he later called Perl and said he had used the rifle.