

New guides would limit FBI security probes

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Washington—Edward H. Levi, Attorney General, said yesterday that new guidelines proposed by the Justice Department would limit FBI security investigations within the United States to groups who practice or advocate violence.

The guidelines are aimed at meeting widespread criticism of FBI tactics, particularly under the directorship of the late J. Edgar Hoover, in fighting groups and individuals whom Mr. Hoover regarded as extremist.

Mr. Levi spoke about the guidelines, now in draft form and subject to revision, in testimony before the Senate intelligence committee. The committee has been investigating the FBI's surveillance and harassment of political activists, journalists, and others, sometimes at the instigation of the White House.

"Under the draft guidelines," Mr. Levi said, "domestic

security investigations are only to be authorized when there is a likelihood that the activities of individuals or groups involve, or will involve, the use of force or violence in violation of federal law."

Investigations, Mr. Levi said, would be limited to those groups or individuals who:

- Advocate the overthrow of the federal or a state government.

- Interfere with the activities of foreign representatives in the United States.

- Try to influence government policies by disrupting government functions or interstate commerce by force or violence.

- Deprive citizens of their civil rights.

- Create "domestic violence or rioting when such violence or rioting would necessitate as a

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countermeasure the use of federal armed forces."

The guidelines would require any program of domestic intelligence investigations to be approved by the attorney general or someone designated by him.

Mr. Levi said the new standards would not rule out "preventive" counterintelligence actions by the FBI. Although some counterintelligence activities in the past "were outrageous and the others were foolish," he said, "there may be circumstances involving an immediate risk to human life or to extraordinarily important government functions that could only be countered by some sort of preventive action."

Meanwhile, a private investigator from Frederick, Md., who has studied the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., said at a press conference yes-

terday that documents he has obtained show the FBI and other law enforcement agencies fabricated the case that sent James Earl Ray to prison for the crime.

The investigator, Harold Weisberg, got the documents after suing under the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Weisberg said he is "almost certain" the bullet that killed Dr. King came from the street below the balcony on which he was standing and not from a hotel room window which looked down on the balcony.

The documents he obtained, Mr. Weisberg said, show that there was no basis in the autopsy on Dr. King to conclude the bullet traveled through the body at an angle that proved it had been fired from above. The documents also show, he said, that law enforcement officials did not have proof of the kind of bullet that killed Dr. King.