

F.B.I. REACTIVATES LIAISON SECTION

Unit to Keep Intelligence
Link With 8 Other Agencies

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 —

L. Patrick Gray 3d, acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, continuing his reorganization of the bureau, has re-established a unit for maintaining an intelligence liaison with other key Government agencies.

The Liaison Section, consisting of eight experienced agents, keeps in constant touch with the Departments of Defense, State, Transportation and the Treasury and also with the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and the Atomic Energy Commission. The section is headed by Homer Boynton.

Mr. Gray made the decision to re-establish liaison with other Government intelligence functions on Nov. 13 and bureau supervisors were notified of the decision on Nov. 22, according to Mr. Gray's special assistant, David Kinley.

No Reason Given

The late J. Edgar Hoover abolished the Liaison Section in September, 1970, reportedly piqued because the C.I.A. had refused to share an intelligence source with the F.B.I. In Mr. Hoover's time, the Liaison Section grew to about 13 agents, but it was often a source of problems within the bureau because of Mr. Hoover's periodic feuds with Washington officials.

Mr. Gray's office gave no reason for re-establishment of the Liaison Section, which will function as part of the Domestic Intelligence Division.

The liaison section was started after World War II when Mr. Hoover and the then-new C.I.A. went through the process of working out boundaries and working relationships. After a long series of negotiations and messages, the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. generally agreed that Mr. Hoover's bureau would have intelligence responsibility for the United States and the C.I.A. would be paramount overseas.

Liaison men were appointed

and the arrangement worked fairly well, although neither agency ever pretended to be sharing with the other everything it knew or was doing. In time, a relative handful of F.B.I. agents began working overseas as legal attachés in United States embassies while some C.I.A. functions became commonplace on the mainland United States.

Mr. Gray's memorandum did not mention liaison with the White House. The exact relationship of the F.B.I. with the President's staff has tended historically to be set by the incumbent President. President Johnson encouraged liaison and a Hoover assistant, Cartha D. DeLoach, was not only an almost daily visitor to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue but he also had a White House telephone installed in his kitchen.

Attorney General a Contact

President Kennedy dealt with the F.B.I. largely through his brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. President Nixon's staff kept in touch with Mr. Hoover and his aides largely by telephone or through Attorney General John N. Mitchell. Since Mr. Hoover's death eight months ago, the White House has dealt directly with Mr. Gray.

Mr. Kinley also disclosed that an agent from the defunct Crime Records Division, Jack Herington, will be the chief of a small section in the director's office that will handle press and media relations.

Mr. Herington will be given a small staff of two or three relatively young agents to handle the job. Mr. Kinley, who has Justice Department experience but is new to the bureau, had been scheduled to handle all press queries. But he has been finding out that the job is more than he can handle and be a special assistant to Mr. Gray at the same time.

Mr. Herington, an Air Force veteran with 22 years in the bureau, is a low-key, personable man whose experience has been divided between domestic intelligence work and the Crime Records Division.