

Power to Prevent Domestic Threats Sought for F.B.I.

by Nicholas M. Horrock

Washington, Dec. 11 - The Department of Justice proposed today that the Federal Bureau of Investigation be permitted to "obstruct or prevent" groups that were plotting to use force or violence that might pose a threat to life or "interfere substantially" with the "essential functioning of government."

The proposal was among a series of draft "guidelines" prepared by a Justice Department study group designed to place controls over the bureau's domestic security activities.

It was the first time, several senior Congressional aides said, that a proposal had been made that the F.B.I. be permitted legally to act against a group or individual before a crime had been committed.

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The draft guidelines said that preventive actions "may not involve the commission of a crime, the origination of an idea for a crime or inducing others to carry out such ideas" and would be conducted so as not to limit the civil rights of individuals.

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The preventive action methods would have to be approved by the Attorney General or his designate and would have to be taken within specific time periods.

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