

The FBI Is Assigning 6 More Agents Overseas

Washington

The State Department said yesterday the Federal Bureau of Investigation force in overseas United States posts is being expanded by six agents.

The department spokesman, Charles W. Bray, said this will raise the FBI foreign-based force to 96. He said the 90 FBI agents abroad at the start of the year were serving in 18 posts, which the six new additions will be assigned over two posts.

Bray was vague on the purpose of the overseas FBI agents, called legal attaches, but said their functions were

to develop and maintain close relationships with police and other investigative agencies.

Bray added that the FBI agents in U.S. posts were supposed to conduct investigations involving cases originating in the United States and that intelligence work was not within their function. The matter of FBI intelligence - gathering overseas has caused periodic controversy for several decades. It was generally agreed when the Central Intelligence Agency was established following World War II that the FBI would limit its operations to the United States

while the new agency would be responsible for overseas intelligence-gathering.

Associated Press