

FBI Agents Agree To Curb the Leaks

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Seeking to end leaks of confidential information, the FBI is requiring its employees to sign a new agreement. It warns they are liable to criminal prosecution if they make unauthorized disclosures about the Bureau, a Justice Department spokesman said yesterday.

The new employment agreement follows complaints by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew that the press was being leaked information on the Maryland probe involving alleged kickbacks from contractors to government officials. President Nixon has ordered Atty. Gen. Elliot L. Richardson to investigate the leaks.

The FBI spokesman, however, said the new pledge is not a direct outgrowth of the Agnew-Nixon plea for more confidentiality.

Richardson has told Agnew that he has asked the FBI to help determine sources of leaks about an investigation into whether the vice president took payoffs from contractors while he was Baltimore County executive, Maryland governor and vice president.

The FBI spokesman said

the bureau has been working on the new employment agreement since last December when the Supreme Court ruled that the Central Intelligence Agency has a right to prevent publication of its secrets by ex-agents.

The spokesman said the new agreement sets forth what the law says are the penalties for revealing confidential information. The old agreement simply noted that agents were expected to keep the details of their work secret.