

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—  
 Following is the text of a  
 statement today by Attorney  
 General Elliot L. Richardson  
 on the investigation of Vice  
 President Agnew:

Recently there has been  
 widespread and highly varied  
 public speculation regarding  
 both the substance and the  
 procedure related to the in-  
 vestigation of the Vice Presi-  
 dent. Although it would be  
 improper to discuss the sub-  
 stance of the investigation at  
 this stage, I feel it necessary  
 to clarify certain procedural  
 points in order to reduce un-  
 warranted and potentially  
 harmful speculation.

In the period of Sept. 12  
 to the present, meetings and  
 discussions have taken place  
 between myself, Assistant  
 Attorney General Henry E.  
 Petersen, and United States  
 Attorney for the District of  
 Maryland, George Beall, re-  
 presenting the Department of  
 Justice, and Messrs. Jay H.  
 Topkis, Martin London and  
 Judah Best, counsel to the  
 Vice President.

The Department of Justice  
 agreed to participate in these  
 meetings in response to a re-  
 quest by the Vice President's  
 counsel to discuss procedural  
 aspects of the case and op-  
 tions available to the Vice

President. The department did  
 so with a view toward the  
 possible prompt resolution of  
 problems which might other-  
 wise result in a constitutional  
 dilemma of potentially seri-  
 ous consequence to the na-  
 tion. These discussions took  
 place with the approval of  
 the President's counsel and  
 the President.

The discussions have, how-  
 ever failed to yield a satis-  
 factory resolution. It has  
 proved impossible, to this  
 point, to reconcile the Vice  
 President's interests, as rep-  
 resented by his counsel, with  
 the Department of Justice's  
 perception of its responsibil-  
 ity to assure that justice is  
 pursued fully and fairly.

On Sept. 3, I authorized  
 United States Attorney Beall  
 to present evidence regarding  
 the Vice President to the Fed-  
 eral grand jury sitting in Bal-  
 timore. It is the intention of  
 the Department of Justice  
 to present such evidence to  
 the grand jury when it re-  
 convenes on Sept. 27.

The grand jury will be  
 used, in accordance with  
 well-established practice, as  
 an investigative body. This is  
 a traditional function of a  
 Federal grand jury, whose  
 role, as representative of the  
 community, is to ensure the  
 fairness of the investigative  
 process.