

FBI Chief Promises to Meet Press

FBI - II

Washington

FBI director Clarence M. Kelley, in a major break with traditions of the late J. Edgar Hoover, pledged yesterday to hold regular news conferences to tell the public what is going on in his bureau.

Kelley declared soon after taking office last July 9 that he wanted the FBI to have an "open stance" and has held a series of regional news conferences during his visits to eight cities across the country during the past months.

Kelley also has declared a policy against saying "no comment" in response to reporters' questions.

From now on, Kelley announced, he will hold three or four news conferences a year in Washington on a regular basis and call extra ones when news developments warrant it.

"You can consider that a commitment," Kelley told seven reporters regularly assigned to the Justice Department — whom he invited to a luncheon meeting in his office to discuss FBI relations with the press and the public.

Kelley set another precedent by agreeing to the reporters' request that he allow them to interview other FBI officials such as assistant directors. Kelley said for the first three months an FBI "external affairs office" (public relations) representative would sit in on the interviews.

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