

SFChronicle
FBI - II
JAN 4 1975

FBI Domestic Spying Report

Washington

A Justice Department report concludes that there are no grounds for bringing criminal charges against present or former FBI officials who carried out counterintelligence operations against 16 domestic organizations.

Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger examined the program and found "no basis for criminal

charges," department spokesman Robert Havel said yesterday.

Pottinger's conclusions were reported to Attorney General William B. Saxbe in a memorandum on December 13. Havel said in response to questions.

Pottinger, head of the Civil Rights Division, reviewed the counterintelligence operation at Saxbe's request to determine whether civil rights laws were violated.

"On the basis of Stan's review, they didn't find anything that violated civil rights laws," Havel said.

But he noted that Pottinger, in his memo, said he had not examined the entire 60,000-page FBI file on the program.

The FBI began the counterintelligence operation to disrupt certain organizations in 1956.

Associated Press