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2 F.B.I. Agents Reported Slain on Sioux Reservation

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By United Press International

OGDALA, S. D., June 26—Two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were shot and killed on the Pine Ridge Sioux Indian Reservation today, Wayne Adkinson, administrative manager for the Bureau of Indian Affairs at nearby Pine Ridge, said. Details of the shootings were scanty.

[A spokesman for the F.B.I. in Minneapolis confirmed that the two agents were dead.

[However, a spokesman for the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Pine Ridge refused to confirm the deaths of the agents because their bodies had not been recovered by officials by 6:40 P.M., about seven hours after they had been shot. Intermittent gunfire from a farmhouse prevented the recovery.]

Early reports from a B.I.A. agent said that the F.B.I. agents were felled by gunfire from a house and from nearby "bunkers." Further shooting kept other officers from going to the slain men's aid, the agent said.

The outbreak of shooting was the worst on any South Dakota reservation since the 71-day occupation and siege of Wounded Knee in 1973.

Today's outbreak occurred when the F.B.I. agents apparently went to Oglala, about 10 miles from Wounded Knee, to make an arrest. One Government source said that the outbreak of shooting had sounded like a war.

The B.I.A. police officers from the sprawling Pine Ridge

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reservation—the second largest in the country—were rushed to the scene. F.B.I. agents from Rapid City, S.D., and from regional headquarters in Minneapolis were dispatched to the area.

Information on the incident was being withheld and a B.I.A. official from Aberdeen, S.D., was being flown in to act as an information officer. The F.B.I. office in Minneapolis would say nothing other than that a shooting incident had occurred in an area where it had jurisdiction.

The shooting at Oglala came only six weeks after a departing B.I.A. police officer had expressed hope that a lull in violence on the reservation would continue. Earlier this year there had been almost weekly slayings or shootings.

A clampdown by Federal law enforcement and judicial officials brought a temporary end to the violence. One resident said today, however, that more law enforcement would not help, "not even if you brought in a whole division."

Oglala is a typical tiny Indian hamlet on the main state road about three miles west of Pine Ridge, the reservation's main town. Travelers who pass through the community see a combination gas station and general store, a quonset hut style meeting hall and nine or 10 dwellings.

The American Indian Movement, which spearheaded the

occupation of Wounded Knee in an attempt to gain a power base on a major reservation, has been involved in frequent incidents at Pine Ridge this year.

A.I.M. members also occupied the Yankton Sioux Industries pork plant at Wagner half way across the state from Pine Ridge. Those two incidents ended without bloodshed, although sporadic gunfire marked the last occupation by a group of young Indians.