

# New Limits

## Urged on

# FBI Probes

FBI - II

### Washington

Congressional investigators called yesterday for tight new legislation to focus the FBI's domestic intelligence operations only on those groups likely to engage in violence.

The General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, issued its recommendations as part of a 232-page final report on an audit of the FBI's domestic intelligence activities. The audit was the most extensive review of current FBI spying ever conducted by an outside agency.

The report concluded that the FBI has achieved few tangible results in terms of criminal prosecutions and convictions in its investigations of thousands of so-called "extremists and subversives."

In only a few cases, the report said, has the FBI gained advance knowledge of imminent violent acts through its spying operations.

The GAO called Attorney General Edward H. Levi's proposed guidelines restricting domestic intelligence-gathering a step in the right direction but said they aren't strict enough in some areas. In any case, the GAO said the restrictions should be accomplished through legislation rather than executive orders.

The head of the GAO, Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats, is to testify about the report before a House Judiciary subcommittee today.

The GAO recommended legislation limiting domestic intelligence investigations "only to groups that have used or are likely to use force or violence." The legislation should require the attorney general or his deputy to review the cases annually to determine whether the groups actually are violence-prone, it said.

The legislation should prohibit investigations of individual members of such groups unless there is information indicating "the individuals may be involved in or are likely to become involved in specific criminal acts," the GAO said.

The report said, however, that

the recommendations would not "preclude the FBI from investigating any individual plotting the imminent use of force or violence in a specific criminal act," even through the individual had no group affiliation.

The GAO investigators noted that the FBI objects to such a strict standard. "The FBI essentially believes that it should be allowed to investigate groups that evidence a possibility of using violence, regardless of the probability that they will do so," the report said.

But the GAO suggested that the volume of past intelligence

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cases might have diminished their effectiveness.

"Violent groups, such as the present-day Weatherman, or previously the Ku Klux Klan, want the FBI's full attention," the GAO said.

Rather than concentrating on the most violence-prone groups, the FBI has diffused its domestic intelligence investigative coverage to the point where many investigations do not lead to positive results."

The GAO investigator reviewed a random sample of 898 domestic intelligence cases handled by FBI offices in Chicago; Los Angeles; New York; San Francisco; Atlanta; Buffalo, N.Y.; Columbia, S.C.; Sacramento; San Diego, and Springfield, Ill.

The sample was about 4.6 per cent of the 19,659 intelligence cases considered active in those offices in 1974.

The sample cases included 797 investigations of individuals and 101 investigations of organizations.

Based on the sample, the GAO concluded that criminal convictions were obtained in only 1.3 per cent of the 17,528 investigations of individuals handled by the ten offices. In half the cases, "the FBI was unable to establish the individual's association with a group or its activities," the report said.

The GAO said that the 797 sample cases against individuals led to advanced knowledge of planned illegal acts in only about 15 instances.

The FBI, in a statement issued along with the GAO report, referred to those cases and said, "each of these instances cited are examples of where human lives may have been saved. How does one place a value on this type of information? Percentages do not appear to be an adequate measure."