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Nixon Order to FBI On Aiding Police

Washington

President Nixon has personally ordered the FBI to investigate the murders of policemen, when so requested by local authorities.

There is no law giving the FBI jurisdiction in local crimes, but Mr. Nixon gave the bureau what FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover called "a mandate" to offer its full investigative assistance in the wave of police killings, which totaled 56 as of June 30.

Mr. Nixon offered the FBI's active participation June 3 at a White House conference of police chiefs and sheriffs, and put the offer in writing June 14 in a followup letter to all police chiefs. Hoover sent out another letter June 21 setting forth details for law enforcement officials.

The offer was not made public, however, until yesterday.

FBI officials said there had been no local requests for help, and noted that 96.4 per cent of police killings are solved almost immediately by local authorities.

The Administration has opposed all attempts in Congress to make it a federal crime to kill a policeman, on the ground that the FBI is not a national police force.

Justice Department officials stressed that FBI investigative assistance would be provided only on request.

and that any evidence produced by FBI agents would be turned over to local authorities for prosecution.

United Press