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Harassment Charged

Philadelphia Peace Groups Sue FBI

Philadelphia

Two anti-war groups and 18 individuals sued the Federal Bureau of Investigation yesterday, asking the Federal district court here to enjoin as unconstitutional "continuous and malicious harassment" by agents since the theft of FBI files at

nearby Media in March.

In attempting to solve the case, the FBI has concentrated much of its attention on the Powelton Village section of Philadelphia, where several members of Philadelphia Resistance and the American Friends Service Committee

The plaintiffs, these two organizatins and the individuals, said in the suit that FBI tactics included physical vio-lence, bribery, threats, ille-gal searches and seizures, illegal electronic surveillance and wiretapping, denial of the right to counsel during raids and interrogation, and intimidation not only of themselves but of friends, relatives and employers.

DAMAGES

Besides an injunction, they asked for \$390,000 in dam ages and destruction of all newly compiled dossiers on them that the court finds to violate their rights and "to bear no reasonable relation-ship" to legitimate FBI acvities.

Named as defendants are attorney general John N. Mitchell, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and Joe D. Jameison, agent in charge of the bureau's regional office

The suit contends that the "harassment," carried out while "allegedly investigating the theft of files from the Media, Pa., office of the

FM," has been "part of a policy to intimidate political and social activists into believing ... there is an FBI agent behind every mail box" and to "enhance the paranoia in the new left."

DOCUMENTS

The anonymous Citizens Commissin to investigate the FBI took more than 800 documents from the media office March 8 and released many of them piecemeal to news media.

At a news conference, Judith Chomsky of Resistance said the plaintiffs knew no more about the Media case than they had readin newspa-

Miss Chomsky said the FBI appeared to be seeking to create a climate of fear that would stop the plaintiffs and others from continuing to criticize domestic and foreign policy.

N.Y. Times Service

Fuller story filed FBI - II