

New Senate Panel May Study F.B.I. Drive on Arab

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—Efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to combat Arab guerrilla terrorism—the efforts allegedly included a burglary of the Arab Information Center in Dallas by Government agents—are likely to come under the scrutiny of a new Senate committee, according to Senate sources.

The new Committee, Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities, headed by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, has not begun active investigations or finished selecting a staff. But well-paced Capitol Hill sources said that the committee would be provided with evidence of F.B.I. domestic intelligence operations against alleged Palestinian terrorist groups. The evidence was said to include statements by L. Patrick Gray, 3d former director of the F.B.I.

C.I.A. Request Reported

According to sources on the now defunct Senate Watergate committee, Mr. Gray testified that as acting F.B.I. director he authorized an illegal entry of the Arab Information Center in Dallas in the fall of 1972 to obtain a list of 94 alleged Al Fatah agents. The list allegedly belonged to Dr. Seif Wadi Ramahi, the director of the center.

Mr. Gray, according to the Watergate committee sources, gave the same information to the Watergate special prosecutor. It is the Watergate committee's material on F.B.I. operations that will reportedly be given to the Senate committee.

The operation was mounted, Mr. Gray reportedly said, because the F.B.I. had been told that the documents might contain a list of names of men involved in "planned assassina-

tions in the United States. The operation, which was mentioned briefly in Newsweek magazine in 1973, obtained a list of 94 names written in Arabic with addresses in the United States and Canada, according to Watergate committee sources.

The F.B.I. was acting on a request from the Central Intelligence Agency, according to committee sources. The C.I.A., in turn, was following up on intelligence received from foreign governments that believed the international Palestinian terrorists were operating in the United States, these sources said.

The Dallas operation was part of stepped-up counterintelligence activities against Arab terrorists following the massacre of Israeli athletes at Munich in the Olympic Games of 1972. At the same time, a Governmentwide operation against terrorist activities, dubbed "operation boulder," was ordered by President Nixon.

There appeared to be a link between the Dallas incident and the surveillance of Abdeen M. Jabara, a Detroit lawyer, which the F.B.I. has acknowledged in Federal court. The F.B.I. said that it monitored 40 conversations of Mr. Jabara, an American citizen, when he talked with persons being wire-tapped.

Questions Were Asked

It also acknowledged asking questions about Mr. Jabara and making reports on his speeches even though it said he is not a subject of a criminal investigation.

Mr. Jabara said in a telephone interview that he was in contact with Dr. Ramahi in 1972 on "legal problems that Dr. Ramahi had."

Dr. Ramahi was a Palestinian who was employed by the Arab League to run the Information

Center in Dallas. He was not an American citizen, although he was a graduate of Southern Illinois University.

Dr. Munir Bayoud, an American citizen of Palestinian descent and the present director of the Dallas office, said in a telephone interview that he did not believe that Dr. Ramahi was in any way involved in terrorist operations. "He wouldn't hurt a fly," Dr. Bayoud said.

He added that Dr. Ramahi had mentioned to him that he "lost" a briefcase that contained a mailing list of names of Arab students and others of Arab descent in the United States. "I think the F.B.I. used this list to harass these people," Dr. Bayoud said.

Recently Visa Denied

Dr. Ramahi, Dr. Bayoud said, is now chargé d'affaires in Libya for the United Arab Emirates. He said that Dr. Ramahi was out of the country in the fall of 1972 on a honeymoon and was refused a re-entry visa by the United States authorities. Government sources confirmed this.

Former senior United States intelligence officers said that they believed the Dallas operation was "fully justified" in the light of information the United States had received and the acts of terrorism occurring almost weekly in this period. They pointed out that in July, 1973, an Israeli military attaché, Col. Yosef Alon, was murdered by gunmen in his home in Chevy Chase, Md., near Washington. The killers have never been found.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. declined to comment on these various activities before Clarence M. Kelley, director of the F.B.I., gives his testimony.

Mr. Jabara sued the F.B.I. in 1972, after becoming convinced

that the agency had put him under surveillance, he said in the interview. He was later joined in the suit by the American Civil Liberties Union.

In answer to Mr. Jabara's "interrogatories" in his suit, the F.B.I. said that it had kept track of his activities as far

Terrorism

back as August, 1967. The F.B.I. said that it monitored his conversations when it picked him up as a result of "lawful national security electronic surveillance conducted to obtain foreign intelligence."