SFChronicleAUG 2 4 1973 Richardson Spurs Probe Of Leaks

Washington

Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson enlarged his investigation of alleged leaks of information in the Justice Department yesterday and placed it in the hands of the FBI and a ranking department official.

Richardson disclosed the action in a letter to Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, who had complained of "vicious and illegal" leaks to news media about the allegations against him in a Maryland kickback investigation.

Agnew's letter to the attorney general said "there can be no question" that some Justice Department personnel have been responsible for the leaks.

The attorney general said yesterday: "I have today asked the acting assistant attorney general for administration who has had no prior involvement in the ininvestigation, to undertake a systematic inquiry using any and all departmental resources as he sees fit."

The official to be in charge of the inquiry is Glen E. Pommerening.

Richardson continued, "I have also asked the director of the FBI to cooperate by making available FBI personnel to assist in the inquiry as needed."

Associated Press