

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—
 Following is the text of a
 statement today by Attorney
 General Elliot L. Richardson
 on the investigation of Vice
 President Agnew:

Recently there has been
 widespread and highly varied
 public speculation regarding
 both the substance and the
 procedure related to the in-
 vestigation of the Vice Presi-
 dent. Although it would be
 improper to discuss the sub-
 stance of the investigation at
 this stage, I feel it necessary
 to clarify certain procedural
 points in order to reduce un-
 warranted and potentially
 harmful speculation.

In the period of Sept. 12
 to the present, meetings and
 discussions have taken place
 between myself, Assistant
 Attorney General Henry E.
 Petersen, and United States
 Attorney for the District of
 Maryland, George Beall, re-
 presenting the Department of
 Justice, and Messrs. Jay H.
 Topkis, Martin London and
 Judah Best, counsel to the
 Vice President.

The Department of Justice
 agreed to participate in these
 meetings in response to a re-
 quest by the Vice President's
 counsel to discuss procedural
 aspects of the case and op-
 tions available to the Vice

President. The department did
 so with a view toward the
 possible prompt resolution of
 problems which might other-
 wise result in a constitutional
 dilemma of potentially seri-
 ous consequence to the na-
 tion. These discussions took
 place with the approval of
 the President's counsel and
 the President.

The discussions have, how-
 ever failed to yield a satis-
 factory resolution. It has
 proved impossible, to this
 point, to reconcile the Vice
 President's interests, as rep-
 resented by his counsel, with
 the Department of Justice's
 perception of its responsibil-
 ity to assure that justice is
 pursued fully and fairly.

On Sept. 3, I authorized
 United States Attorney Beall
 to present evidence regarding
 the Vice President to the Fed-
 eral grand jury sitting in Bal-
 timore. It is the intention of
 the Department of Justice
 to present such evidence to
 the grand jury when it re-
 convenes on Sept. 27.

The grand jury will be
 used, in accordance with
 well-established practice, as
 an investigative body. This is
 a traditional function of a
 Federal grand jury, whose
 role, as representative of the
 community, is to ensure the
 fairness of the investigative
 process.