

F.B.I. CHECKS THREAT MADE TO GOVERNORS

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BOSTON, March 3 (UPI)—

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said Sunday it "was handling" reports of letters sent to five New England Governors by the kidnapers of Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. would not say whether the agency was formally investigating the apparently identical letters but did say, "The F.B.I. does have information of the letters and are handling it."

The five Governors said Saturday they had received mimeographed letters signed by Field Marshal Cinque, the name given by the leader of the kidnapers, who call themselves the Symbionese Liberation Army. At least three of the Governors said they did not take the letters seriously.

Gov. Meldrim Thomson Jr. of New Hampshire, the first to disclose receipt of the letter, described it as "a threat." The other Governors to receive letters are Kenneth M. Curtis of Maine, Francis W. Sargent of Massachusetts, Thomas R. Salmon of Vermont and Philip W. Noel of Rhode Island.

Mr. Thomson declined to say whether he had been threatened with death or injury but said the mailed threat did include a demand that certain things be done."