

Kent State Shootings Not in Order, FBI Says

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—

An FBI report on the May 4 shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University has con-

cluded that the shootings were "not necessary and not in order," the Akron Beacon Journal said today.

The newspaper said in a copyright story that FBI agents have concluded that Ohio National Guardsmen were not surrounded by demonstrators, had not run out of tear gas and could have controlled the situation without shooting.

More than 100 FBI agents investigated the May 4 shootings, which came as Guardsmen moved to break up a crowd of demonstrators.

In Washington, the Justice Department said its Civil Rights Division had sent the prosecutor of Portage County a memorandum outlining potential violations of state law in the shootings.

The department said the memorandum does not come to any conclusions but sets out alternatives for the con-

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sideration of the county prosecutor.

The Beacon Journal said the FBI's 7,500-page report was summarized in a 10-page report which said:

—About 200 demonstrators who were heckling Guardsmen could have been turned back if arrests had been made or more tear gas fired.

—That no Guardsmen were hurt by flying rocks or projectiles, and none was in danger of losing his life and there was no hail of rocks before the shootings.

That one Guardsman fired at a student making an obscene gesture and another fired at a student preparing to throw a rock.

National Guard officials contended after the shootings that their men had been surrounded on three sides, that each of some 100 men in the force involved had been hit by thrown objects and that the men fired because they felt their lives were endangered.

THE NEWSPAPER said the report was signed by Jerris Leonard, chief of the Justice Department civil rights division. It said it had learned that the report listed names, ranks, and addresses of six guardsmen in connection with the shootings.

The Beacon Journal says the report raises the question of whether or not the student-guardsmen confrontation could be considered a riot. It said that report asserted that guardsmen could be charged only if riot conditions did not exist.

It said the FBI had not determined what action actually touched off the Kent State shootings.

The report said 13 students in all were hit by bullets, four shot in the front and the others hit in the side or back, the paper said.

OHIO ADJUTANT Gen. S. T. Del Corso, commander of the Ohio Guard, could not be reached for immediate comment on the report.

National Guard officials contended immediately after the shootings that a sniper had fired at troops, but Guard officers later said the report had not been confirmed.