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# U.S. Indicts Four Indians In Killing of 2 FBI Agents

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Four Indians with records of involvement in militant activities were indicted yesterday on charges of killing two FBI agents last June 26 on the Oglala Sioux Reservation at Pine Ridge, S.D.

The indictment, returned by a federal grand jury to the U.S. District Court in Rapid City, S. D., charged the four with first-degree, premeditated murder in the shooting deaths of Special

Agents Ronald A. Williams and Jack R. Coler, both 28.

Named as defendants in the indictment were Leonard Peltier, 31; Robert Eugene Robideau, 29; Darrelle Dean Butler, 33, and James Theodore Eagle, 20.

Peltier is a fugitive, but the other three are in federal custody on other charges. If convicted on the murder charges, they face maximum sentences of life imprisonment on each of the two counts in the indictment.

The two agents were assisting an FBI investigation of alleged violence on the reservation resulting from conflicts between tribal elders and militant younger Indians.

They died in an apparent shootout in which an Indian, Joe Roberts, 20, also was killed. But the circumstances have since become a matter of confusion and dispute.

The FBI has maintained that Williams and Coler, who apparently were pursuing some suspects in a pickup truck shortly before their deaths, were fired on first. However, that claim has been challenged by the militant American Indian Movement, which charges that any

shooting was started by the FBI agents.

When the case comes to trial, the prosecution is expected to contend that Williams and Coler were ambushed near their car while attempting to serve arrest warrants.

That, in turn, is likely to unleash a new barrage of countercharges from AIM and other militant Indian forces about alleged governmental persecution and make the trial the focus of considerable controversy.