

F.B.I. Says It Knows Identities of Slayers Of 3 Rights Workers

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 —

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said today it knows the identity of the slayers of three civil rights workers in Mississippi last summer.

Reports that the slayers' identities were known have been published periodically since the bodies were dug from their crude grave Aug. 4. Until today, however, official confirmation by the bureau had been lacking.

There was still no indication of when any arrests might be made.

"The F.B.I. launched a massive investigation following the disappearance of the three civil rights workers in the vicinity of Philadelphia, Miss., on June 21, 1964," a bureau spokesman said. "The F.B.I. located their bodies in an earthen dam and has developed information identifying those responsible.

"Intensive investigation is continuing to develop the case for prosecution as soon as possible."

The spokesman's brief report on the Philadelphia case was part of a statement made in response to a request by the Washington Evening Star for comment on complaints about the bureau by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. of Atlanta.

The statement also reviewed the agency's actions in nine other Southern civil rights cases.

Dr. King, in a telegram last Friday to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the bureau, questioned the F.B.I.'s effectiveness in dealing with racial incidents. He noted specifically that no arrests had been made in the Philadelphia case, in the bombing deaths of four Negro children at a Birmingham, Ala., church on Sept. 15, 1963, or in the mistreatment of demonstrators at Albany, Ga., in the summer of 1962.

The telegram was dispatched a day after Mr. Hoover, in an interview with a group of newspaperwomen here, had called Dr. King "the most notorious liar in the country" for allegedly equating the lack of arrests in Albany with the Southern background of agents stationed there.

Regarding the Birmingham church bombing, the agency's spokesman said today that an intensive investigation was still under way.

Klansmen Suspected

However, he said, "the F.B.I. has identified a small group of Klansmen believed to be responsible."

The spokesman said agents had conducted numerous investigations of complaints in the Albany demonstrations and had submitted the results to the Justice Department.

"The department," he reported, "did not believe there were grounds to prosecute any of the incidents arising out of these demonstrations."

In reviewing the bureau's work in other Southern civil rights cases, the spokesman cited these actions:

¶ Arrests of five present and former law enforcement officers in Neshoba County (Philadelphia), Miss., on charges of police brutality.

¶ The arrest of a deputy marshal in Sasser, Ga., 20 miles from Albany, on charges that he had cursed voter registration workers and fired at the tires of their cars.

¶ Arrests and convictions of four white men who burned a Negro church near Dawson, Ga.

¶ Arrests of two white men in connection with the burning of a Negro church near Leesburg, Ga.

¶ Investigations leading to 11 arrests in McComb, Miss., on charges of bombing and other violence.

¶ Seven arrests in Natchez, Miss., and seven in Pike County, Miss., in shootings, beatings and other racial violence.

The spokesman also challenged Dr. King's statement that he had no record of a request by Mr. Hoover for a meeting and that he had always made himself available to agents in the Atlanta F.B.I. office.

In November of 1962, the spokesman said, an appointment was sought with Dr. King "to straighten him out with regard to his public remarks concerning the F.B.I.'s performance in Albany, Ga."

Dr. King left instructions with his secretary, according to the spokesman, "that he would call the F.B.I. when he was willing to arrange an interview" but "he made no further responses."

Resignation Is Urged

Four civil rights leaders demanded yesterday that Mr. Hoover either resign as F.B.I. director or reconsider his position.

James Farmer, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, called for Mr. Hoover's resignation and charged he was conducting a "vendetta" against civil rights groups.

Mr. Farmer was one of several rights leaders who reacted strongly to Mr. Hoover's talk in Chicago last night, in which the F.B.I. chief lashed out against "zealots or pressure groups" that he said were "spearheaded at times by Communists and moral degenerates."

Whitney M. Young Jr., execu-

"I am not asking that he resign," Mr. Young said, "but I am asking that he reconsider his role. He has a right as a private individual to hold views about states' rights but not as head of the F.B.I."

Newsweek magazine quotes Mr. Hoover as saying he has been "one of these states' righters all my life."

Mr. Wilkins said: "Perhaps Mr. Hoover needs to review his position as F.B.I. director and to decide where his allegiance lies—not as to love of country, but as the Federal-state relationship and the issue of color-blind Americanism."

Charles Evers, field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. in Mississippi, whose brother, Medgar, was slain in June, 1963, said:

"I think it is time for the President to remove this man without waiting for his retirement. Hoover is a self-admitted states' righter; he is also a racist and a segregationist."