

The FBI Knows Dixie Killers

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Washington

The FBI said yesterday that it knows who killed the three young civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss., last summer.

"Intensive investigation is continuing to develop the case for prosecution as quickly as possible," an FBI spokesman said.

The statement was in reply to charges by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and other Negro leaders that the FBI was providing inadequate protection for Negroes in the South.

Acting Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach has said previously that Mississippians refusing to come forward and testify have prevented arrests in the slayings.

KILLINGS

The three killed last June were Andrew Goodman, 20, of New York; Michael Schwerner, 24, of Brooklyn, N. Y., both whites, and a Negro, James Chaney, 21, of Meridian, Miss.

Their bodies were found in a deep grave near Philadelphia about two months after they were last seen alive. They had been shot.

It was the first time the FBI officially admitted it

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knew the identities of the slayers.

The FBI spokesman said:

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

KLANSMEN

The FBI also said it has identified a small group of Klu Klux Klansmen believed to be responsible for the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., church Sept. 15, 1963. Four Negro children were killed in the blast.

"This investigation was prejudiced by premature arrests made by the Alabama Highway Patrol and consequently, it has not yet been possible to obtain evidence or confessions that would assure successful prosecution," the FBI spokesman said.

The FBI spokesman said its agents had investigated "numerous allegations of civil rights violations," but the Justice Department, "did not see fit to prosecute any of the incidents arising out of the demonstrations."

ROLE

The spokesman emphasized that the FBI's role is strictly investigative. It cannot, he said, offer protection or initiate prosecutions.

In defending the agency's civil rights record, the spokesman pointed to several arrests in Mississippi and Georgia in connection with civil rights violations.

King, winner of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, had cited the lack of arrests in the Mississippi and Birmingham killings in a telegram to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. King said those and other incidents showed inadequate FBI protection for Negroes in the South.

King sent the telegram in reply to Hoover's charges that King was the "most notorious liar in the country" for saying the FBI refused to act in Southern civil rights cases because agents were Southerners.

In his telegram to Hoover, King also charged that no arrests had been made as a result of brutalities to Negroes involved in mass civil rights meetings in Albany, Ga., during the summer of 1962.

Replying to King's statement, the FBI spokesman conceded no arrests had been made. But he added that the FBI had submitted to the Justice Department the results of investigations of the Albany, Ga., complaints.

"The Department of Justice did not believe there were grounds to prosecute any of the incidents arising out of these demonstrations," the spokesman said.