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By MARTHA COLE

WASHINGTON AP - FBI

Director J. Edgar Hoover reported Sunday a sharp trend upward in the number of civil rights cases investigated last year, with 960 under the new law which took effect July 2.

Hoover made the report in his year-end accounting to acting Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach.

The FBI director also repeated his warning of past years about the Communist party.

The party has assigned priority to a recruitment campaign aimed at gaining new members from the ranks of America's youth, Hoover said, adding: "To implement this program, it initiated a new national Marxist youth organization last June - the W.E.B. Du Bois Clubs of America. Chapters of this group have already appeared on several college campuses."

In general figures, Hoover said that final tabulation for 1964 will show the apprehension of some 13,200 FBI fugitives,

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 tigated cases, compared with 19,660 in 1963.

He reported some 12,850 convictions in FBI cases and a total of more than \$203 million in fines, savings and recoveries. He said this figure far exceeds the amount of funds spent to operate the FBI last year. The FBI has an annual budget of about \$150 million.

In the civil rights cases, Hoover said among the more highly publicized one was the investigation of the disappearance of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi last June 21. He said 21 individuals were arrested by FBI agents in the case.

Another case he mentioned was the shotgun killing of Negro Lt. Col. Demuel A. Penn in Georgia, in which he said four men were arrested by FBI agents.

FBI files now contain more than 173 million sets of fingerprints representing over 78 million persons, he said. Processing an average of over 23,000 fingerprint cards each working day, he said, the division identified some 20,980 fugitives from justice during the past