



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

JUL 26 1976

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Dissemination of information concerning
domestic demonstrations or civil disorders

Your memorandum of July 2, 1976 describes the circumstances under which information received by the FBI concerning a demonstration in Bowling Green, Kentucky was routinely disseminated to the CIA because the demonstrators denounced the CIA. This instance illustrates the desirability of formulating fairly precise standards for the routine dissemination of information outside of this Department, particularly with reference to civil disorders and demonstrations.

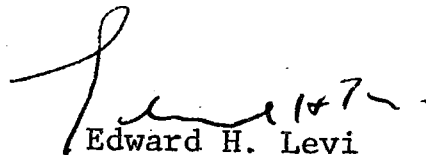
In your discussions with the CIA concerning the types of information which are of concern to them I suggest that you make an effort to distinguish between information which will be disseminated on a routine basis and that which would be available to the CIA upon its specific request. Routine dissemination should be rather carefully restricted to that which relates directly to the security or safety of CIA installations, personnel or operations, such as an announced purpose to gather in considerable numbers at a CIA facility in the near future. An expression of disagreement with the CIA or its policies or operations should not be disseminated routinely.

On the other hand, it may be proper to furnish to the CIA, or any other federal agency upon its specific request, information concerning earlier civil disorders or demonstrations, whether or not they directly related to the agency, if that information will be useful in determining the extent to which present activities pose a threat to the security of

the agency's facilities, personnel or operations. For example, if a government facility is, or is about to be, the target of a demonstration by a particular group, information in FBI files concerning prior demonstrations by that group which resulted in violence or illustrated the group's ability to prevent violence would be relevant to a determination as to whether a security threat exists. Such information might properly be furnished upon request.

It is important that the very limited nature of the Federal Government's interest in both civil disorders and demonstrations be recognized not only in the acquisition of information but also in its dissemination to other Departments and agencies. Unless the information indicates that some action or response by the agency involved is likely to be required, routine dissemination should not be made.

This is not to suggest, of course, that dissemination for other purposes such as those required by statutes, executive orders, or National Security Council directives should be limited simply because the relevant information was acquired in connection with a civil disorder or demonstration.


Edward H. Levi
Attorney General