A Report to the American People on the Work of the FBI 1993 - 1998

Louis J. Freeh Director

Executive Summary

Law Enforcement Ethics and Fairness

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is dedicated to protecting the American people from harm, and nothing is more important to achieving that goal than the integrity of its Special Agents and other employees.

In the past five years, I have established core values for all FBI employees: obedience to the Constitution, respect for the dignity of all protected by the FBI, compassion, fairness, and total integrity.

At the same time, I have developed "Bright Line" policies to which all FBI employees must adhere. Certain conduct will not be tolerated, including lying, cheating, stealing, sexual harassment, and alcohol and drug abuse.

To oversee these important areas, I created a new and separate Office of Professional Responsibility to deal with allegations of employee misconduct and to conduct rigorous, in-depth ethics training for FBI Special Agent Trainees and others.

FBI Leadership in National Security

The FBI has placed a top priority on fighting threats to the nation's national security posed by terrorists and spies. The FBI's counter-terrorism budget more than tripled from Fiscal Year 1996 to FY 1999, enhancing our ability to combat these insidious dangers to our way of life.

The FBI's counter-terrorism programs are directed against both threats originating from abroad and at home.

In 1998, the FBI responded with hundreds of Special Agents when American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed. A number of defendants were returned to the U.S. to face charges.

Earlier, six persons were convicted in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City. Another major terrorist incident was prevented when a plot to bomb other New York City targets was uncovered and 14 persons were convicted.

In other cases, three persons were convicted of plotting to bomb U.S. airliners in the Far East, a man who killed two CIA employees in Virginia was arrested abroad and returned by the FBI and convicted in state court, and the investigation continued into the bombing that killed 19 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia.

The worst domestic terrorist incident in U.S. history occurred in 1995 in the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 persons. Two men were later convicted in the case, one receiving the death penalty and the other life in prison.

One of the FBI's longest investigations--17 years--ended in 1996 with the arrest

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