

Army Shaping Scanners and Other Devices to

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WASHINGTON, May 6—The protection of Presidents and other public figures from assassination is the focus of an Army program that envisages the use of bacteria and whippets, advanced infrared scanners and psychological stress analyzers.

The counter-mine and counter-intrusion department of the Mobility Equipment Research and Development Center at Fort Belvoir, Va., is in charge of the program.

Sources there believe that equipment now perfected or in advanced stages of development could have prevented the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the shooting of Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama.

An infrared gun flash detector, which can be built into a vehicle, can spot an area from which a rifle has been fired. It is possible that Lee Harvey Oswald would have been taken in the Texas Book Depository in Dallas soon after he fired the fatal shots at President Kennedy, had this detector been in use.

The Army's program will be described at a conference on electronic crime countermeasures to be held at the University of Kentucky this month. The program is linked to the development of electronic sensors for the computerized battlefields of the future.

Stress Analyzer

The identification of a potential assassin is a major security problem, especially in a crowded public room. Scientists now have high hopes for a psychological stress analyzer.

Its use would require a Secret Service agent to ask a

suspect a few harmless questions. The latter's replies would be automatically analyzed to measure stress levels to the point where a difference could be detected between stress arising from personal worry and that resulting from a commitment to violence.

The stress analyzer will supplement other equipment now used to detect weapons at airports and in jails. Such equipment has been refined to the point where hidden X-rays, installed in the White House or other government buildings, can give Secret Service men an instant and complete body picture of a person passing before the installation.

The detection of weapons in a crowd is the subject of varied experiments, some of which use trained dogs. Miniature whippets and greyhounds and pomeranians and poodles are taught to detect guns by various smells; power residue, gun oil and gun solvent cleaners.

Small Dogs Inconspicuous

Small dogs are chosen because they can be carried into a crowd without exciting suspicion. Researchers say that spayed whippet and greyhound bitches have been the most successful ones thus far in experiments.

Miniature metal-detectors to be carried by plainclothes men are another item in the Army program. The men would wear tiny radio receivers comparable to hearing aids. When the detector, carried in a briefcase, registers, a beep will sound in the agent's receiver.

A more extreme detector, now under development, would use bioluminescent bacteria. These glow when they are in the presence of gases given off by certain explosives. The bacteria would be carried

in containers about the size of a wallet. The scientists also are seeking the development of bacteria that will react to gun oil and powder.

Outside Policed Areas

Security officials in this country and abroad agree that the sniper equipped with a modern rifle firing high velocity bullets is the principal danger to public figures, largely because the range of his

weapon enables him to attack from outside the policed area around his victim.

The infrared gun flash detector will not prevent the sniper from shooting. But it will raise the probability of his detection and thus may deter him.

Carried in a car in a motorcade or stationed at a political meeting, the detector would sound an alarm when a bullet passed within 50 feet. A read-

Foil Assassins

out would show the operator the approximate spot from which the bullet was fired.

An infrared imaging system may increase protection of public men in a crowd. This device could be mounted on a convention hall platform or on a truck at an outdoor meeting. From this vantage point, the imaging system would scan the crowd, picking up radiations of infrared energy from concealed weapons.