

The Weather

Today—Mostly sunny, high in 40s, low in mid to upper 20s. Chance of precipitation is near zero today and tonight. Friday—Partly cloudy, high near 50. Yesterday's temperature range, 60-46. Details on Page C22.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1974

White House Grounds Intruder

12/26/74

By Lawrence Meyer
and Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writers

A suburban Washington man who claimed he was armed with explosives rammed his car through the closed northwest gate of the White House yesterday morning and kept police and Secret Service agents at bay for four hours only a few feet from the front door of the White House.

The incident ended peacefully at 11:01 a.m. without harm to anyone as the man surrendered following a radio broadcast of his desire to speak with the Pakistani ambassador. His "explosives" proved to be highway

flares and other nonexplosive equipment.

President Ford and his family were spending the Christmas holidays in Colorado, which a Secret Service spokesman cited as one reason for a "compassionate" response by security officials. It was the second time in less than a year that the White House grounds has been forcibly breached.

Authorities identified the man, as Marshall Hill Fields, 25, of 8724 Woodland Dr., Silver Spring. A former taxicab driver, he was taken to St. Elizabeths Hospital, where he was committed by the Secret Service for observation.

Fields, whose dark brown two-door Chevrolet bore a silver license plate with black Arabic characters instead of a standard license plate, had himself referred to in the broadcast as Abdul Rahim.

Persons who know Fields said yesterday that his behavior had become erratic since his father—an official with the U.S. Agency for International Development who had served in Arabic speaking countries—died last May. Fields wore some Arab-style clothing yesterday and at one point spoke to officials in Arabic, which he had apparently learned while living abroad with his father.

At 10:58 a.m., WHUR, Howard University's radio station, broadcast Fields' message: "Abdul wants the Pakistani ambassador to know that he is operating under very unusual circumstances and asked to speak with him immediately." Fields monitored the broadcast on his car radio and gave himself up to the executive protective service, which is charged with guarding the White House grounds, within minutes after the broadcast.

According to police, Fields was driving his car on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue past the White House about 7 a.m. when he made what at first appeared to be a U-turn. Instead

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of completing the turn, however, Fields drove his car through the closed tearing the right-hand gate from its hinges and carrying it about 20 feet. No shots were fired at Fields, according to Secret Service spokesman George Cosper.

Cosper said that the executive protective service could have taken stronger action but "we had an empty White House on Christmas Day. We have some compassion."

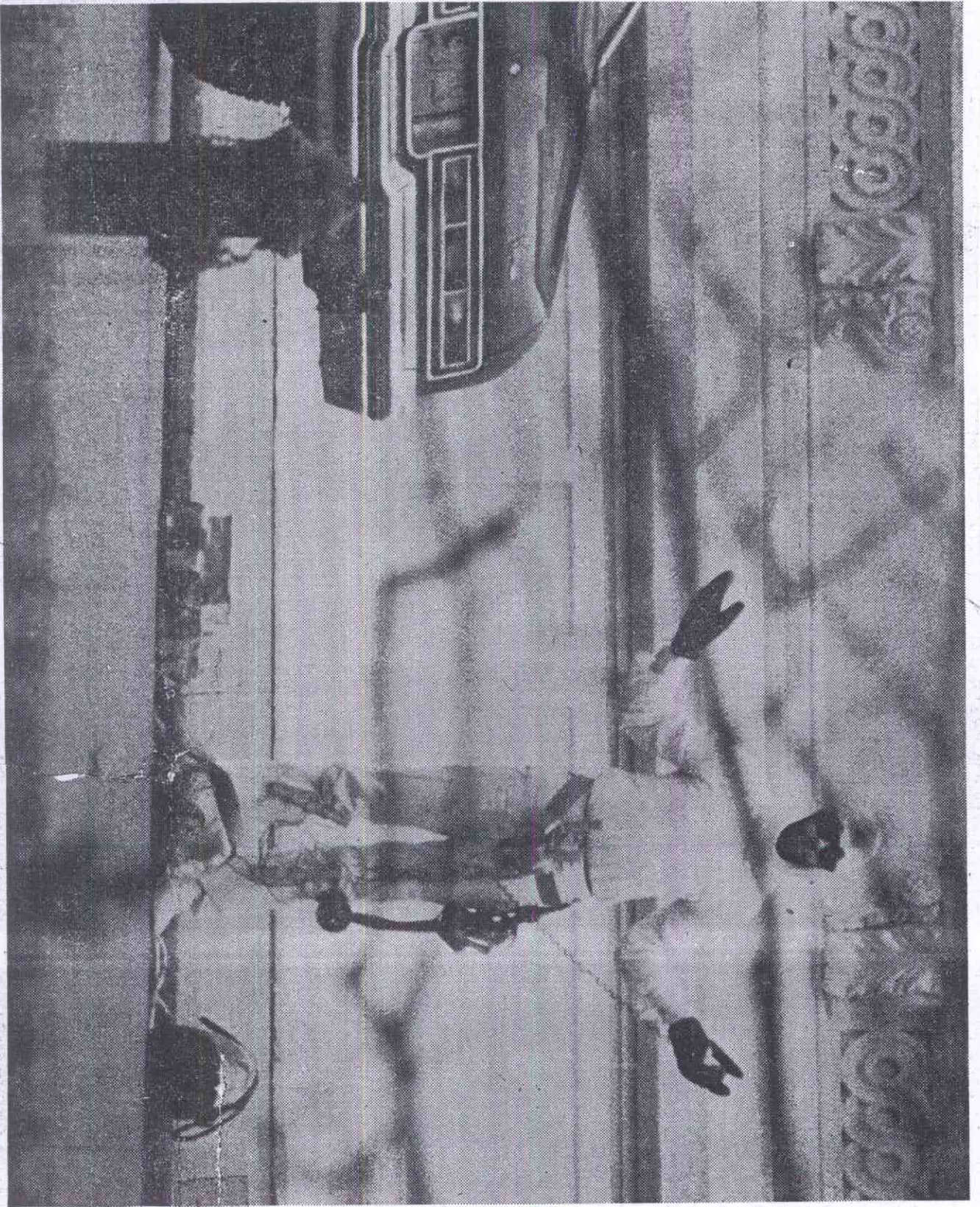
Fields was allowed to come within about 20 feet of the north portico of the White House, the familiar colonial entrance dominated by four, two-story Ionic columns. Two uniformed police-

men could be seen on the portico training rifles on Fields, who was wearing a white top and hood resembling Arab headgear.

According to Earl Drescher, the chief of the executive protective service who arrived at the White House at about 7:30 a.m., Fields at first spoke in Arabic, leaving the impression that he could not speak English well. After an interpreter was brought to the White House, Drescher said, Fields spoke in English.

Drescher began three hours of conversation with Fields. In all their dis-

See INCIDENT, A6, Col. 1



Police kept their distance as this man, who said he was wired to explosives, stood in the area of north portico of the White House.

By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post

INCIDENT, From A1

cussion, Drescher said, Fields "never did say what he really wanted." Much of the conversation, according to Drescher, was about Fields' views about Islam "and if you want my own opinion, I'd say he was trying to gain recognition for his Islamic views."

Drescher said that Fields told him several times that he had explosives and said, "For the safety of the White House you better do what I request." But we never did get more out of him until out of the blue he said he wanted to talk to the Pakistani ambassador.

By then it was about 10 a.m. and Drescher said he told Fields that it would be difficult to get the ambassador on Christmas day. Then, Drescher said, Fields suggested that Drescher call WHUR-FM, the Howard University radio station, and ask the station to announce that he wanted to speak to the ambassador.

After Drescher did this at 10:35 a.m., he said Fields told him, "If I hear the announcement, I'll disarm myself." While they were waiting, Drescher said, Fields "asked me how my Christmas was, and I said it really hadn't started yet." Fields turned on his car radio and opened the door so that he could hear it.

Throughout the conversation, Fields held a wire in his left hand attached to the cylinder around his waist. Two other cylinders were attached to his knees with silver colored tape. All three proved to be highway flares. Two duffle bags were at his feet and a gas mask was hanging from his waist.

At 10:58 a.m., the station made the announcement. Fields waved a white flag, then took the devices off his body, put them on the ground in front of him and held his arms outstretched.

Drescher came up to him slowly with his own arms outstretched. Then he searched Fields as other police officers surrounded them, and Fields walked with police down the White House driveway to the guardhouse at the northwest gate.

Fields was taken to St. Elizabeths for observation without any charges being placed against him under a civil procedure that allows the Secret Service to commit a person who may be a danger to himself or to any of the service's "protectees," according to a spokesman.

Drescher said the EPS never tried to reach the Pakistani ambassador, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

An embassy spokesman said Khan eventually heard about the request at noontime when reporters telephoned to ask questions about it. The spokesman, Mohammad Iqbal Butt, said Ambassador Khan would not see Fields. "He is not a Pakistani national," Butt said. "It's something that is entirely within United States' jurisdiction."

Butt said that as far as embassy officials know, Fields has never been in Pakistan. He said he had no idea why Fields wanted to see the ambassador.

"We really can't go into his thoughts," Butt said.

Fields' mother, Florence, who lived with her son in Silver Spring, was brought to the White House during the episode, according to Secret Service spokesman Cosper. Mrs. Fields did not speak to her son during the incident, Cosper said. She was reported to be under sedation yesterday and could not be reached.

According to another Secret Service spokesman, a file on Fields has been maintained by the Secret Service because "he was of protective interest to us. He came to our attention because we thought he could be a possible problem towards the people we protect." The service did not reveal its reason or when the file was opened.

Cosper told reporters that Fields had "never become a direct threat to any of our protectees."

The last time that the White House grounds were forcibly breached occurred last Feb. 17, when an Army private who had flunked out of Army flight school commandeered a helicopter from Ft. Meade, Md., and landed it on the south lawn of the White House in a blaze of gunfire.

The soldier, Robert K. Preston, later pleaded guilty to a charge of misappropriation of a military aircraft and breach of the peace. Preston was sentenced by the Army in August to a year at hard labor with credit for six months already served and fined \$200 of his \$398 monthly salary for one year.

Treasury Secretary William E. Simon said after yesterday's incident, "It was handled in the usual professional . . . manner the Secret Service handles problems."

Drescher said he was sure "there will be studies and evaluation of this incident." Other officials agreed that the incident would lead to a review of security provisions around the White House.

The Executive Protective Service is a uniformed force, supervised by the Secret Service, which protects the White House buildings and grounds as well as foreign embassies and missions in Washington.

The force, which now has 850 men, was known as the White House police until 1970.

The Secret Service itself is an agency of the Treasury Department, charged with protecting the president and vice president and their families. Its agents do not wear uniforms. This weekend the regular detail of Secret Service agents, which protects President Ford, was with the President and his family in Vail, Colo., where Ford is on a skiing vacation.

The last time a President was personally threatened inside his official residence was on Nov. 1, 1950, when two Puerto Rican nationalists attempted to attack President Harry S. Truman while he was staying in Blair House during the renovation of the White House.

Mr. Truman was not hurt during the incident, but one of the White House guards was slain and one of the assailants also died during the attack.

Also contributing to these stories were Washington Post Staff Writers Doug Brown, Lou Cannon and Alfred E. Lewis.

Ford's protectors unruffled

WASHINGTON (AP) — The President's protectors displayed unruffled confidence in their security procedures Thursday, even though a man about whom they had been warned crashed through a traffic gate with his auto and drove to the doorstep of the White House.

Earl L. Drescher, head of the Executive Protective Service which mans the White House gates, said he was certain a study group would be formed to give the incident quick attention.

But neither Drescher, the Secret Service, nor Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, the Cabinet head responsible for the Secret Service, was involved in any formal meetings Thursday to analyze the situation, aides said.

"We're constantly re-evaluating and making changes where we see need," Drescher said. He indicated no changes can be expected this week.

President Ford and his family are in the midst of a skiing vacation in Colorado.

The incident occurred despite the fact that the Secret Service had classified the driver, Marshall H. Fields of suburban Silver Spring, Md., as "of possible protective interest."

The service would not say how Fields came to their attention, but he had written letters to various news media threatening some sort of action against the government on Christmas Day.

Fields was not under active surveillance when he crashed through a gate with his auto, according to the Secret Service.

Fields threatened security guards with packages of what he called explosives. After four hours of negotiations with officials, he surrendered. The packages turned out to contain highway flares.

On Thursday, Fields underwent his first day of in-depth psychological interviews, said a spokesman for St. Elizabeth's Hospital, the federal mental institution where Fields was taken as a "White House case."

The White House grounds are surrounded by an eight-foot-high cast iron fence with spear-shaped bars about as thick as a man's thumb. The fence is

set in stone. Six gates provide access to the grounds.

Fields crashed through the northwest gate fronting on Pennsylvania Avenue — one of two gates that are electronically operated. It is guarded from an adjacent guard booth.

Fields' move apparently was so sudden that Secret Service officials were unable to say from which direction Fields approached or how fast his car was traveling.

Despite the fact that it was Christmas morning, the incident occurred while gate guards were at full strength. Secret Service spokesman declined to say how many guards were at the gate.

A 1968 law permits the Secret Service to commit "White House cases" to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for up to 30 days. In a 1971 survey, The Associated Press found that such commitments were running at the rate of about one a year.

Intruder at White House Ordered Back to St. Elizabeths for Tests

and Alfred E. Lewis
By Lawrence Feinberg
Washington Post Staff Writers

Marshall H. Fields, the man who entered White House grounds on Christmas morning and then made threats to police about setting off explosives, was charged by federal prosecutors yesterday with destroying government property—the White House gate he crashed his car through. After an hour-long court hearing yes-

terday he was sent back to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for further examination by psychiatrists.

Fields jumped up from his seat repeatedly during the hearing to argue with U.S. Magistrate Jean F. Dwyer.

He insisted that he be addressed by his Moslem name of Abdur Rahim, and tried unsuccessfully to have his attorney read a statement he had composed.

See **FIELDS**, B8, Col. 2

B 8 Saturday, Dec. 28, 1974 THE WASHINGTON POST

Intruder Returned To St. Elizabeth's

FIELDS, From B1

At one point Fields even complained that the clock on the magistrate's wall wasn't telling the right time.

"I am an Orthodox Moslem," he declared, "and I am entitled to my prayers ...

I would like to have that timepiece corrected."

Magistrate Dwyer said she had been trying to get the clock fixed for several months.

Fields, 25, of Silver Spring, is the son of a deceased American State Department employee, and became an applicant to a local Moslem group in October.

He had been held at St. Elizabeths under a civil commitment since shortly after he surrendered quietly to authorities on the White House grounds.

During his four-hour siege just 20 feet from the White House door, Fields had kept guards away by threatening to set off what he claimed to be explosives. They later were found to be highway flares.

The charge filed yesterday specifies a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Additional charges could be brought later by a grand jury.

Magistrate Dwyer set Jan. 27 for a hearing on whether Fields is competent to stand trial and to receive a report from psychiatrists on his mental condition at the time he crashed onto the White House grounds.

A half-hour after the magis-

trate's hearing, U.S. District Court Judge June L. Green signed an order changing Fields' status at St. Elizabeths to a criminal commitment.

Yesterday's hearing was delayed more than an hour when a private attorney hired by Fields' family failed to appear. The lawyer was not identified.

A public defender, Charles Rosenbleet, represented Fields before the magistrate and later conferred with his mother and sister, both of whom sat quietly in the small courtroom.

Fields, who came into the courtroom apparently in the same sunglasses and white shirt he wore outside the White House, did not speak to his relatives or look at them.

The formal charge against him estimated that the damage to the White House gate he crashed through was "in excess of \$4,000."

Shortly after the charge was read to him, Fields asked Magistrate Dwyer: "Am I to assume that if I was (charged) as Jesus Christ, I would be tried as Jesus Christ?"

The magistrate replied: "That's inconsistent with the Moslem religion."

Fields responded, "You are not Moslem and you know nothing about the Islamic faith."

Despite his dispute with Magistrate Dwyer, Fields raised his hand before each exchange with her, and left the room quietly after the hearing.

President Awaiting Full Data

Vail Security Seems Relaxed As Ford Skis

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

VAIL, Colo., Dec. 25—

Undeterred by the breach in security at the White House, President Ford spent a relaxed and white Christmas here, declaring that he would pass no judgment on the Washington incident until he had more details.

The President skied as usual in sub-zero temperatures on a sparkling beautiful Christmas Day in the Rockies.

Security here has appeared to be relaxed and unobtrusive since Mr. Ford and his family arrived Sunday, and there has appeared to be no need for protection.

Despite the warning from Washington that a President is never entirely safe, officials said there would be no change in security arrangements in this quiet vacationland where the principal interest is on the snow rather than politics and government.

An example of how relaxed the President is about his visit and how calmly Vailites take the presence of their most famous visitor occurred Tuesday night at Christmas Eve services in the town's Interfaith Chapel.

When the Fords arrived a few minutes late, the church was filled except for a few seats reserved for them in front. But the President refused to disrupt the services by walking to the front pew.

Instead, he stood in the back, leaning against the wall for the 45-minute service of carol singing and a brief sermon. After some importuning from a member of the congregation, Mrs. Ford slip-

ped into a rear pew and sat down.

After more than two hours skiing today, the President announced plans for a meeting here Saturday on economic proposals. It was announced Tuesday that the President's chief energy advisers will meet with him here Friday.

Before boarding a gondola for a trip to the top of the mountain, Mr. Ford told reporters he had been fully briefed on the incident at the White House.

When asked if he thought it meant greater security should be provided, he replied: "I'm not going to pass

See PRESIDENT, A2, Col. 4

PRESIDENT, From A1

judgment until I get more details on it."

Mr. Ford said that the report he had requested from the Central Intelligence Agency on allegations it had spied on American citizens was "pretty voluminous" and would be flown here by courier Thursday.

The report was turned over to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in Washington Tuesday. It is understood to be about 50 pages long.

The President skied at the "North Woods" area today, which is at 11,000 feet and is not as heavily skied as some others slopes.

The area was described by one intrepid skier who followed the President as "majestic" and full of mostly unpacked snow.

"The sky was clear blue, the sun bright even at the top," it was said. "The snow was like a coat of marshmallow frosting, with diamond sparkles in it."

The President said "it couldn't have been nicer up there . . . just absolutely gorgeous. But I decided I'd better take it easy. Rumsfeld's got a lot of work to do, too. Scrooge came with Santa Claus. Rumsfeld came."

The reference was to Donald Rumsfeld, White House staff chief, with whom the President worked for several hours before having a family dinner.

Mr. Ford said he received "a whole raft of very nice" Christmas gifts, including

brass book ends from Williamsburg from his wife, sweaters, jackets, cheeses and sausages from his children.

The Saturday meeting will be to work on economic proposals the President will send to Congress in January, press secretary Ron Nessen said.

Scheduled to attend are Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon; L. William Seidman, the President's economic coordinator; Chairman Alan Greenspan of the Council of Economic Advisers; Chairman Arthur F. Burns of the Federal Reserve Board; William Eberle, retiring international trade negotiator, and Kenneth Cole Jr., retiring director of the Domestic Council.

Scheduled to attend the Friday meeting on energy are Simon, Seidman, Greenspan, Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton and Frank Zarb, federal energy administrator.

Compassion Cited In Lack of Gunplay During Incursion

Suspect

By Fred Barbash

Washington Post Staff Writer

By all available accounts, Marshall Hill Fields, had tried repeatedly to draw attention to himself in recent months and had given notice that he intended to do something dramatic on Christmas day.

WRC-TV news yesterday reported receiving a written statement in recent days from a man claiming to be Fields, which said: "I will denounce my citizenship to this country on Dec. 25, 1974, and if it is God's will, I will be out of this country to seek political asylum in one of the countries now known to be a member of the Third World."

The statement also said: "I am an applicant to the Islamic Party in North America though I bear full responsibility for my actions against the government of the United States of America."

The statement discussed Fields' conversion from Christianity to Islam, but neither there, nor in federal authorities' accounts of what Fields told them, was there a clear explanation for his dramatic morning appearance on the White House grounds yesterday carrying what he said were explosives.

This and other incidents indicating erratic behavior by a man named Marshall Fields all occurred after Fields' father died of cancer in May, according to friends and associates. Marshall L. Fields, who neighbors and friends said was the father of the younger Fields, was an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development and had been stationed in a number of Arabic speaking countries in Africa with his family.

Secret Service spokesman

William Hawthorne said that Fields had been a person of interest to the Secret Service. But the spokesman would not say why or whether its interest was connected with the communications from a Marshall Fields.

At least two other news agencies or reporters received similar messages, in recent weeks, included in a packet of materials, from a person claiming to be Marshall Fields. One of them, Ken Owen, a correspondent for the Argus newspapers in South Africa, said he for-

See **FIELDS**, A6, Col. 1

Security

By Martin Weil

Washington Post Staff Writer

Top-level federal officials responsible for presidential security expressed satisfaction yesterday with the handling of the incident in which a man in a car smashed his way past a police guardhouse and drove onto the White House grounds.

At the same time, officials also said they expected the gate-crashing, which occurred only 10 months after the landing of a stolen helicopter on the South Lawn of the White House, would lead to a review of security measures there.

The incident "was handled in the usual professional ... manner the Secret Service handles problems," said Treasury Secretary William E. Simon. The Secret Service is a branch of the Treasury Department.

"We don't feel it's necessary to take a man's life on a penetration (onto the grounds) with an empty White House," a Secret Service spokesman said, noting that President Ford and his family are away on vacation. However, he added, if any member of the First Family had been inside, the Service would have used "a completely different approach, a much harder line."

While officials suggested that the breakthrough at the northwest gate was unavoidable, Simon added that "the thing now is to see how similar things could be prevented from happening again."

"I'm sure there will be studies and evaluation of this incident," said Earl Drescher, chief of the Executive Protective Service, the uniformed arm of the Secret Service, which guards both foreign diplomatic missions and the White House.

Officials said yesterday marked the first time anyone had broken through the Northwest gate, part of the first line of physical security at the White House.

The gate, about 20 feet from the Pennsylvania Avenue NW curb, offers access to a curving driveway of about 100 yards, at the end of which stands the Executive Mansion itself.

Made of cast iron, according to White House curator Clement E. Conger, the black-painted fence and gates on the north side of the White House were erected at the end of the 19th century and strength-

See **SECURITY**, A6, Col. 7

FIELDS, From A1

warded the material to federal authorities.

The materials, as described by Owen and federal officials who received them, included photographs of a man, possibly Fields himself, dressed in Arab clothing kneeling in prayer before the U.S. Capitol. In the same packet, he included old newspaper clippings that mentioned his name, religious tracts concerning Islam, and old cables received by his late father when he was an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

At least some of the documents, which ultimately wound up in the hands of AID security officials, were signed "Merry Christmas."

A member of a Silver Spring Jehovah's Witnesses congregation also recalled a man she identified as Fields being escorted from a religious service there after shouting unintelligible slogans and jumping to his feet.

Fields, who also went by the name Abdul Rahim, was born in 1949 in Nashville, Tenn., according to records of a former employer, the Barwood Taxicab Co. in Montgomery county.

According to Paul Hathaway, a spokesman for Howard University, Fields had been a student there majoring in sociology from September, 1969, until the fall of 1970.

After his father's death, Fields apparently exhibited

an interest in Islamic religion.

"All of a sudden," Lee Barnes, his former employer at the taxicab company recalled, Fields began distributing religious pamphlets and "preaching" about religion. Barnes said Fields had an accident-free record as a taxicab driver and worked full time before he quit around Sept. 1.

A spokesman for the Community Mosque in Washington said that young Fields had "been here" although he refused to elaborate pending a press conference called for today by the mosque. The spokesman, Ibrahim Hanif, said that metropolitan police officers had appeared at the mosque yesterday to ask questions about Fields.

Fields sent the documents to Owen and at least one other Africa-oriented news agency in Washington as well as WRC-TV. Owen said he forwarded the packet to the State Department, which forwarded it, after review, to the Agency for International Development. Frank Scordato, assistant director of AID's office of Eastern and Southern African Affairs, said he reviewed the material. Daniel H. Simpson, a State Department country officer for Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, said he also reviewed the material.

With one exception — Owen's recollection of Field's statement saying he would renounce his citizenship on Dec. 25 — the accounts of the three men who have seen the packet agree.

It included several photographs, including the one of

a man in Arab garb kneeling before the Capitol. There was a copy of an old article from the Pittsburgh Courier (the Fieldses were originally from Pittsburgh) about the elder Fields' work in Africa and the Fields family.

There was a Black Muslim tract and a tract apparently written by the younger Fields declaring his religious beliefs. The packet also included a copy of a cable sent a year ago to Field's father from Swaziland dealing with an AID educational project there. The cable was stamped "unclassified" but the "un" had been crossed out.

Owen and the two government officials said the cable contained no sensitive information and concerned "a very innocuous project," according to Simpson.

The packet also included old AID travel orders transferring Fields and his family from African countries. Owen said that one of these travel orders had "Project 007" inscribed on the top. "Agent 007" was the code term for James Bond, the fictitious British spy created by Ian Fleming.

"It was cranky stuff," said Owen. Owen said he made some calls to see if there might be a story in any of the materials and concluded there was not. Owen said some of the material included drawings, apparently made with a compass, of a crescent moon within a circle.

"I consulted security people at AID," Scordato said.

"They evaluated it and it seemed to be from a person who wanted attention."

The Jehovah's Witness incident occurred within the past six months, according to Naomi Lynch, who said she belonged to the Silver Spring West congregation on University Boulevard. Mrs. Lynch said that on two occasions Fields attended congregation gatherings with his mother, who was a member. She said that he "disrupted by hollering slogans" which she said were "unintelligible," and was asked to leave.

The Fields family lives in a middle income area of Silver Spring near the Beltway. Homes in the neighborhood are now selling for around \$50,000. It is a quiet neighborhood.

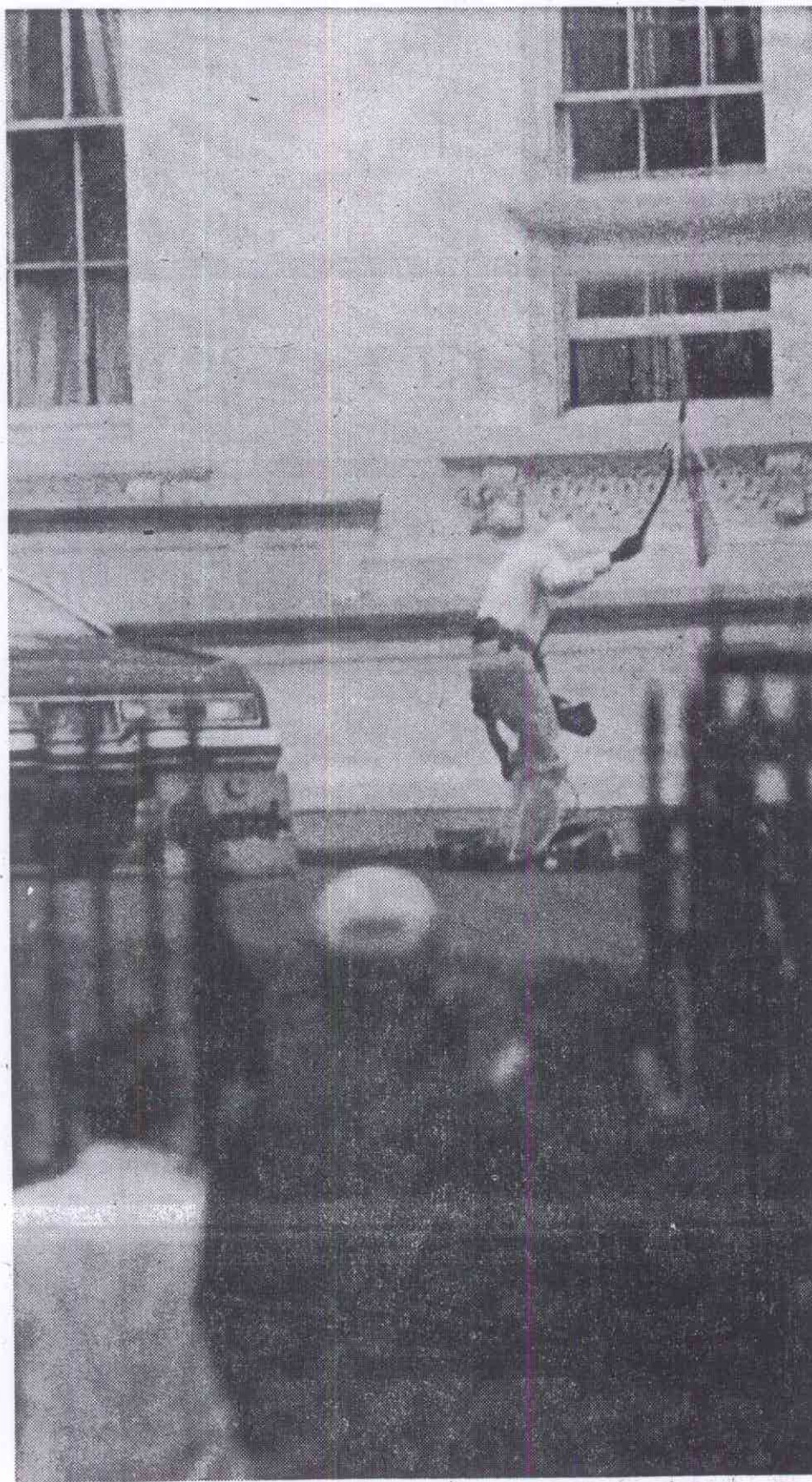
Young Fields had lived with his family for years and traveled with them to many of the countries to which his father had been assigned. His father had served in Iraq, Ngera, Libya,

the Sudan, and other countries before returning to Washington where he became deputy chief of education for Southeast Africa, according to an AID spokesman.

Fields moved away from his family's home in Silver Spring "a couple of years ago," Scordato recalled being told by the father. The

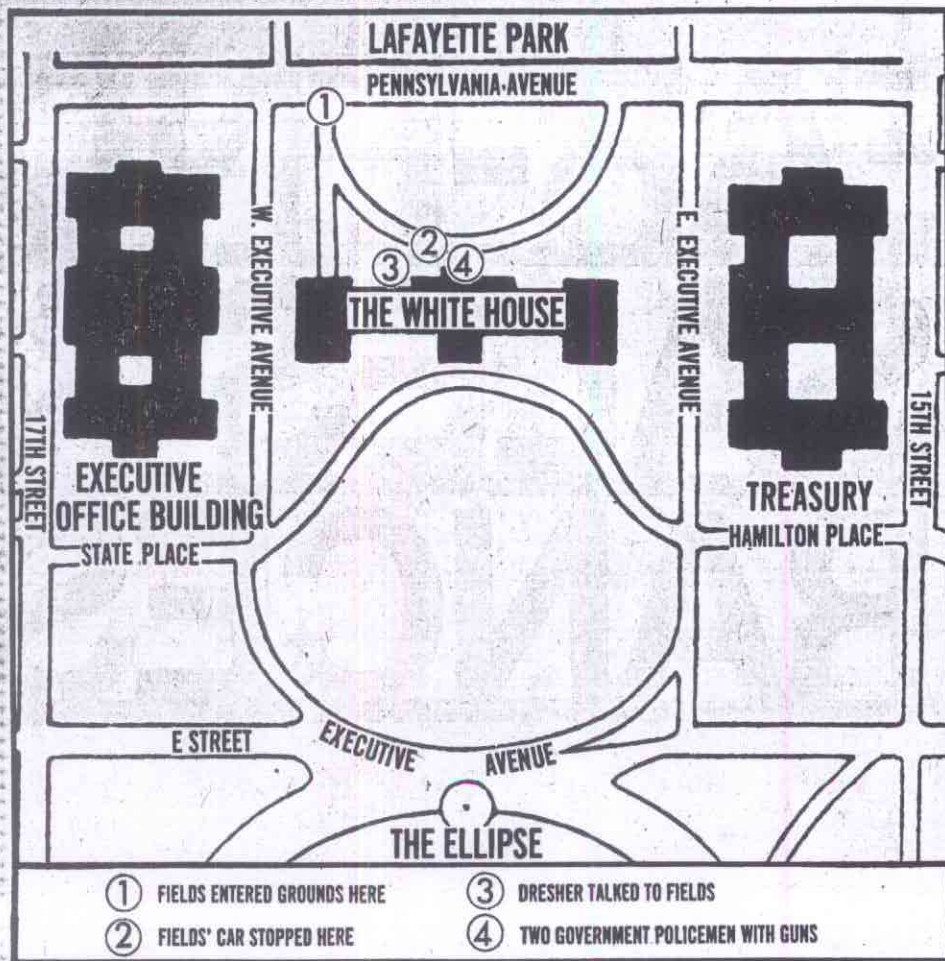
father was upset about this, Scordato said, and also upset when young Fields left college before completing work for a degree.

After his father's death, Fields returned to the Silver Spring home to be with his mother, according to neighbors. Scordato said the son delivered a eulogy at the funeral.



By Joe Heiberger—The Washington Post

Marshall Hill Fields takes off "explosives" while holding surrender flag aloft in front drive of White House, where he had held off guards for four hours.



SECURITY, From A1

ened several times since then, most recently in the Johnson Administration.

"It's a pretty strong fence right now," said Rep. Tom Steed (D-Okla.) who heads the Appropriations Subcommittee, which deals with the Secret Service budget. Nonetheless, he added, the gate is a "vulnerable point, I'd think."

Park Police Lt. Carl R. Holmberg said Marshall Hill Fields was traveling at an estimated 25 to 30 miles an hour when he broke through the gate, ripping one of its two panels from its moorings and damaging the other.

The impact damaged both fenders and the right side of the windshield of Field's car, but left him apparently uninjured.

Drescher was asked if there was any way such a break-in could have been prevented under present circumstances. The fact that it occurred shows that it could not have been stopped, he replied.

Whether stronger gates should now be put up is one of the questions security officials will consider, Secretary Simon said.

According to Rep. Steed and others interviewed, yesterday's events underscore the question raised by the helicopter incident in February—to what extent can security measures be devised to protect even against what the Congressman called "these kinds of wild, unanticipated situations."

"It's pretty hard," he added "to be prepared against just anything."

Concerned with preventing any conceivable attack on the President, and spurred by the helicopter incident, Steed said, the Secret Service has been studying to a greater extent than ever before, measures to be taken against the "once in a lifetime, wild-eyed thing."

Such studies, he said, will undoubtedly be given further stimulus by yesterday's occurrence, and will probably lead to new security proposals at budget hearings set for February.

At the same time, Chief Drescher said, absolute security that would eliminate any possibility of an incident such as yesterday's may not be possible under "our life-style . . ."

Putting such security in

effect, he said, would be "most difficult without" making the White House "an armed camp . . . a very difficult thing . . ."

Among security measures that are in use, according to Conger, is bullet-proof glass over the north windows of the executive mansion, and, according to Rep. Steed, and electronic sensor atop the Pennsylvania Avenue fence.

"They have an electronic detection system so they can sit in a control room and be aware of unusual disturbances around the perimeter," he said in an interview from his home in Shawnee, Okla.

"If a person crawled over the fence," he said, "by the time he got to about the third bush (on the lawn) he'd probably be looking a Secret Service man in the face."

Even if an intruder entered the grounds with the President in the White House, Steed said, it would be unlikely he could reach the Chief Executive. "It's a large place and there are a lot of them (guards)," he said. "You wouldn't have very long to move around."

While giving little detail, Secret Service spokesman George Cosper said the President's guards used two different approaches with an intruder, depending on whether or not the President or other members of the first family are in the White House.

Had the President been in the White House yesterday "this individual would never have gotten that close," Cosper said.

Knowing the President to be away, Cosper said, the EPS officers deployed in "strategic positions," in both fixed and roving posts, took action that was "much more compassionate than killing or opening fire or taking a hard line approach."

It is known that the Secret Service would shoot to kill in the event of a direct threat to the President.

During yesterday's incident, several EPS officers drew their revolvers and at least one officer carried a shotgun, according to a law enforcement source.

EPS officers were reported to have fired shotguns at the helicopter that landed on the south lawn in February. They were also reported to have had submachine guns available.

Entry Episode Is the Eighth in

By Jane Rippeteau
Washington Post Staff Writer

Yesterday's penetration of the White House grounds by a man claiming to be wired with explosives was the second time in 10 months and the eighth time in the past 20 years that the compound has been illegally, sometimes forcibly, entered.

One of the more dramatic episodes occurred just before 2 a.m. last Feb. 17, when a young soldier from Ft. Meade, Md., landed a stolen Army helicopter on the south lawn amid police gunfire.

The soldier, Pfc. Robert Kenneth Preston, 20, had flunked out of Army flight school the previous September and took off virtually unnoticed from the Ft. Meade helicopter compound about midnight. Until he was discovered by radar nearly an hour later, he led police on an hour-long wild airborne chase around Maryland and downtown Washington.

White House protection officials were unaware of the illegal flight over restricted airspace between the Capitol and the Kennedy Center until the helicopter hovered directly over the White House itself about 1 a.m., without attempting to land. Officials of the Executive Protective Service were ready when it returned an hour later, and forced it down in a blaze of gunfire.

Preston was treated for wounds sustained in the incident at Walter Reed Army



By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post

Firemen keep watch over White House during bomb threat.

Medical Center, booked by D.C. police on a charge of unlawful entry and taken to Walter Reed's psychiatric facility at Forest Glen. His only explanation for his action was that he was "just goofing off" and "buzzing everything that was popular." He was not armed.

At the time, law enforcement officials said Preston could have flown right into the White House if he had not attracted so much attention by his bizarre 50-mile joy-ride over Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties and the heart of Washington.

Other successful penetrations of the White House grounds include two entries by car and two on foot:

Feb. 9, 1973. A Hyattsville man was arrested after he drove a brand new Mercedes-Benz sedan through a

partly open White House gate and skidded to a stop just short of the North Portico.

The man, Roger W. Longley, 26, of 5704 Queens Chapel Rd., veered off East Executive Avenue—in a Mercedes with a \$10,060 price tag in the window—and rammed through an iron gate that had been left partly open to allow tourists to leave the White House grounds.

Longley was ordered committed to a hospital by a U.S. District Court judge after his court-appointed attorney and a U.S. marshal said he had been acting irrationally.

Jan. 24, 1972. Desiring "to take a personal look" at the White House, a 22-year-old airman scaled the ground's spiked-top iron fence and

wandered around on the south lawn for several minutes before he was caught.

Gerald C. LeBlanc, of Baldwinville, Mass., was charged with unlawful entry. At the time, he was serving as a security patrolman with the Air Force in Dover, Del.

Aug. 19, 1971. An unidentified man drove a Volkswagen into the White House driveway, leaped out of it and ran off. East Executive Avenue was cordoned while Ft. McNair bomb specialists searched for explosives. They found none. The man was not caught.

March 10, 1968. A man from Cincinnati scaled a White House fence near the northwest gate and walked about the grounds briefly until the Secret Service escorted him off to St. Elizabeths Hospital for mental observation.

One of the most dramatic violations of Presidential security occurred at Blair House in 1950 when two gunmen attempted to assassinate President Harry S. Truman.

At 2:15 p.m. on Nov. 1, 1950, Oscar Collazo and Grieselio Torresola, two Puerto Rican nationalists, tried to shoot their way into Blair House in an attempt to kill Truman, and thus dramatize their demands for Puerto Rican independence.

Truman, who was occupying Blair House because the White House was undergoing repairs, was not harmed. But a White House guard, Pvt. Leslie Coffelt, was killed in the crossfire.

Torresola was also killed. Collazo, wounded, received a commuted sentence of life imprisonment.

Other White House security breaches have been less dramatic.

In one episode, Joseph J. Nebbiai, described as an absentminded New Yorker who came to Washington to

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get a patent on a toy scooter, was arrested on Oct. 5, 1955 inside the White House with loaded automatic handgun.

Nebbiai complained to an incredulous judge that he had wandered aimlessly into a line of tourists that, unknown to him, was enroute to the White House. He said he thought he was in a library, but when he noticed the guards, surmised it was a museum filled with priceless treasures.

The 30-year-old inventor paid a \$25 fine and went home.

The Executive Protective Service is also responsible for the security of about 21 diplomatic missions in Washington and Maryland, and at the direction of the President, EPS is occasionally assigned to guard foreign government missions in New York City. A Secret Service spokesman would not say which missions are now under EPS guard.

Last Nov. 18, the Philippine ambassador to the United States and the embassy's economic attache were held hostage for more than 10 hours in the Washington chancery by a gunman who wanted a passport for his son to leave the Philippines.

The gunman, Napoleon B. Lechoco, a former Manila lawyer, who came to the United States in 1972, did not release his hostage until he was assured by authorities that his son could leave the Philippines.

The ambassador, Eduardo Z. Romualdez, and economic attache, Mario S. Lagdameo, were not harmed.

The incident brought scores of heavily armed Executive Protective Service police, metropolitan police and FBI agents to the red brick embassy, located at 1617 Massachusetts Ave. NW.