

Kissinger Guard Shot Accidentally

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DAMASCUS, Oct. 11 — A Secret Service agent who has been one of Henry Kissinger's closest bodyguards was wounded today when a submachine gun toppled from its rack and accidentally fired as the secretary of state's plane was taxiing toward takeoff at Cairo.

Kissinger, who was 20 feet away when the gun fired, at first said he was unaware of what had happened. Later, he said, "We were all damn lucky."

Walter Bothe, who is 33 years old and lives in Alexandria, was hit on the right side of his head and on his right arm. He was knocked to the floor of the plane but within a half hour after the doctor on board bandaged his wounds, he insisted on standing up and walking around.

—Bothe was taken to a Damascus hospital where six stitches were taken to close the 2½-inch graze on his head. A piece of bullet remains in his arm. He went on to Jordan with the Kissinger party and will return to the United States when Kissinger arrives in Tel Aviv on Saturday.

Bothe has made every trip with Kissinger and is one of the most colorful of the Secret Service agents who protect him. Like an actor from central casting, he is the agent who rides on the side of the car, jumps out before Kissinger emerges, in particularly dangerous security situations, carries his Israeli-made Uzi

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Gun Fires Accidentally on Plane Wounding Kissinger Guard in Cairo

BODYGUARD, From A1

submachine gun, often hidden under his coat.

Even after he was wounded yesterday, Bothe's first words were about Kissinger, who was standing in the rear of the plane talking with reporters at the time of the incident.

"Don't worry about me, check the secretary," reporters heard him say.

At the time it was not known whether the shot had come from outside or from a weapon on the plane.

When he was told of Bothe's comment, Kissinger seemed touched and said: "He is a sweetheart."

In the two years that Bothe has been with Kissinger, a mutual admiration society has developed and Bothe likes to get

on the shift that has the most action. He has even come near to perfecting a good imitation of the secretary's guttural, accented speaking stee

Kissinger called him "a close friend."

Kissinger said he first learned of the incident when Secret Service agents rushed into his cabin to pull down the blinds, still not knowing where the shot had come from.

In the front of the plane, the shot sounded like a tray falling in the back galley. Suddenly a steward ran forward to get the state department doctor on board, Martin Wolfe.

Meanwhile agents searched the plane for a bullet hole. The bullet went through the ceiling of the cabin, first passing through a new suit belong-

ing to Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco that was hanging in a nearby closet. The take-off was delayed a half hour while the bullet hole was filled to assure no loss of pressure. The delay also gave the doctor time to determine whether Bothe was in good enough condition to travel.

An official statement issued by department spokesman Robert Anderson said that tests will be conducted to determine if the gun's safety mechanisms were working properly.

Once it was clear what had happened, and that the agent was not seriously injured, Kissinger quipped about Bothe: "I knew he would take drastic steps to get off my detail but he's gone to extremes in this case."