

Post 8/29/72

N.J. Man Held In Threat To Kill Nixon

SAVANNAH, Ga., Aug. 28 (UPI)—Ralph P. Destafano, 31, of Atlantic City, N.J., being sought nationwide on a charge of threatening to kill President Nixon, was arrested near here today en route to Key Biscayne, Fla., the FBI said.

The President maintains a vacation villa at Key Biscayne and is a frequent visitor there, but at present he is vacationing in San Clemente, Calif.

The FBI said Destafano was arrested early today at the Old South Manor motor lodge on U.S. 17 South.

The charge against Destafano was filed in Atlantic City Sunday, the FBI said.

An unloaded .32 caliber pistol was found in the man's motel room under a pillow, according to the FBI. Officers said they recovered 41 rounds of live ammunition from Destafano's car.

The FBI said Destafano was charged with threatening the life of President Johnson in 1968 in New Jersey. That charge was dismissed after Destafano was admitted to a state mental hospital.

Destafano had been a security guard in Atlantic City prior to leaving the state, according to the FBI.

The agency said New Jersey authorities became aware of Destafano's alleged intentions to threaten the President when a note describing his plans was found late Saturday in Atlantic City.