

Intruder in Car Smashes White House Gate

U.S. Official's Son Gives Up; Held Off Police for Four Hours

By PHILIP SHABECOFF
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25—A young man, dressed like an Arab and seemingly laden with explosives, interrupted the Christmas calm of the capital today when he crashed his car through a White House gate at 7:07 A.M. and then stood for four hours a few feet from the executive mansion.

With President Ford and his family skiing in Vail, Colo., the building was empty except for staff. There were Secret Service agents and security guards on the grounds.

The incident ended when the man, identified as Marshall H. Fields, 25 years old, the son of a deceased American diplomat, surrendered to the White House security police at 11 A.M. After questioning, he was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for psychiatric examination.

Wired to the man's body were railroad warning flares,

which are considered relatively harmless. A Secret Service spokesman said Mr. Fields's only demand was to speak to the ambassador of Pakistan. He surrendered after the Howard University radio station met his demand to broadcast an appeal for a meeting with the ambassador.

The ambassador, Sahabzada Yaqub Kahn, has no intention of meeting with Mr. Fields, according to a spokesman for the embassy.

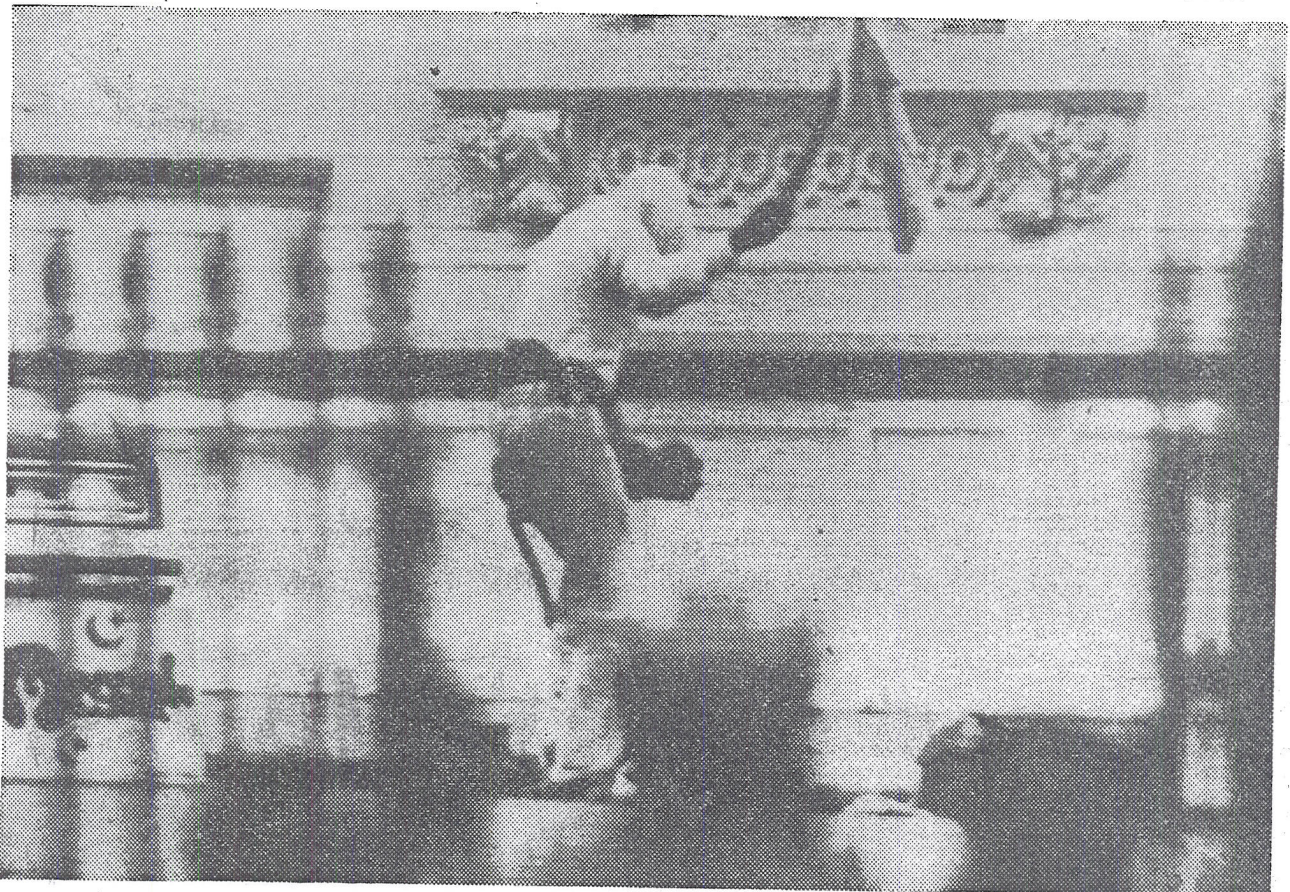
The Secret Service already had a file on Mr. Fields, a college dropout and former taxi driver, as a person who had made a threat against Government officials, a spokesman for the service said. The threat was reportedly not against the President.

State Department security

Continued on Page 24, Column 1



Marshall H. Fields carries satchels first believed to contain explosives. At the left is the car he drove.



Four hours later, he waves a white cloth in surrender. A board with the word "Messiah" rests against the car. Associated Press

Intruder Smashes Gate at White House

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

officials were recently alerted about Mr. Fields, according to one official. Apparently, he had sent a packet of materials, including a threat to "do something" on Christmas Day, to Kenneth F. Owen, the Washington bureau chief for a chain of South African newspapers. Mr. Owen sent the material to the State Department.

The packet contained some confidential Government documents held by Mr. Field's father, Marshall L. Fields. The father was an official of the Agency for International Development until his death earlier this year.

State Department officials who saw the packet said it also contained a picture of an "executioner" in Arab garb and a rambling letter in which the son wrote that his name was "Abdur-Rahmin."

The letter said in part, "I come from the East, but I was born in the West. I have returned to break crosses and to kill swine."

Today's incident began, according to the Secret Service, when Mr. Fields smashed a car through the locked Northwest gate of the White House grounds, a decorated iron grillwork portal on Pennsylvania Avenue. Journalists and other visitors approach this gate for routine visits to the White House. Four or five security policemen are normally stationed in the adjacent guardhouse.

When the gate snapped open under the car's impact, the man drove the car up the curving driveway toward the White House and parked 10 feet from the colonnaded north portico.

Today's incident began, according to the Secret Service when Mr. Fields, driving a 1975 brown Chevrolet Caprice, smashed through the northwest gate of the White House grounds, a decorated iron grillwork portal on Pennsylvania Avenue. Journalists and other visitors approach this gate for routine visits to the White House. Four or five security police are normally stationed in the adjacent guardhouse.

When the gate snapped open, the man drove the car up the curving driveway toward the White House and parked 10 feet from the colonnaded north portico.

The impact did not disable the car, but the Secret Service could not say tonight exactly how badly it was damaged. A Secret Service spokesman did say, however, that the White House gate was heavily damaged. He said he did not know whether the gate, which has a steel pin that sinks into a metal plate in the driveway, was fully locked at the time of the incident. That is one of several

questions being investigated, he said.

The Associated Press reported that the car was registered in the name of Mr. Fields's mother.

Arab-style Headdress

Mr. Fields emerged, wearing a thin white garment resembling a tunic as well as a white cloth that looked like the Arab headdress called a Kaffiyeh.

Tucked into his belt was what appeared from a distance to be a stick of dynamite. Other packets that might have been explosives were attached to his knees with silvery tape. He took black satchels out of the car and put them on the ground in front of him as he stood 10 feet or so in front of the west wing of the White House.

In his black-gloved hands, Mr. Fields held wires that the Secret Service originally thought were detonators leading to explosive charges.

For the next four hours Mr. Fields, gloved hands holding the wires above his shoulders, dark glasses shielding his eyes, stood next to the car. A light rain fell. Security police and Secret Service agents carrying automatic weapons moved into positions behind shrubbery on the lawn and on the roof of the White House.

Mr. Fields was not attacked because the security forces were assuming that he did have explosives. His mother was driven to the White House from her home in suburban Silver Spring, Md., but did not speak to her son. From time to time the chief of the White House unit of the Executive Protective Service, Earl Dresher, walked to within a few feet of Mr. Fields to talk to him.

A Secret Service spokesman reported that Mr. Fields told Mr. Dresher that he wanted to talk to the Pakistani ambassador. He reportedly made no threats to detonate the "explosives."

Mr. Dresher told Mr. Fields he could not order the Pakistani ambassador to negotiate. Mr. Fields then demanded that his message to the ambassador be carried over WHUR, the radio station of Howard University, a predominantly black institution in the District of Columbia. Mr. Fields is black.

Token of Surrender

Mr. Dresher relayed the message to the station, which broadcast in a few minutes later. Mr. Fields listened on his car radio.

Then, as chimes from a nearby church signaled 11 A.M., Mr. Fields pulled a white cloth from his pocket and waved it above his head in token of surrender.

Security police quickly took him into custody and fire equipment moved in. The "explosives" were taken to Fort

McNair for examination by specialists. Mr. Fields was questioned in the guardhouse by the White House gate for more than an hour and was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

The sparse crowd that had gathered in Lafayette Park across from the White House dispersed. The sun came out.

A spokesman for the Pakistani embassy said that the ambassador did not know Mr. Fields and, because Mr. Fields was not a citizen of Pakistan, had no intention of seeing him.

Today's incident was the second time this year an intruder was captured on the White House grounds. On Feb. 17, an Army private, Robert K. Preston, landed a stolen Army helicopter on the lawn amid a hail of gunfire after buzzing the executive mansion several times.

A Secret Service spokesman, George Cospers, maintained that Mr. Fields could have been stopped as soon as he crashed through the gate. Mr. Cospers apparently meant that the intruder could have been shot.

But Mr. Cospers added that because "the White House was empty and it's Christmas Day, we felt some compassion to save him."



The New York Times/George James

A Secret Service man surveys damage to White House gate caused by the intruder's car