

Secret Service Reviews Security at White House

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 26—

The Secret Service began reviewing White House security measures today after a young man crashed his car through a gate leading to the executive mansion yesterday morning.

"We feel our security is as tight as it can be," said George Cosper, a spokesman for the Secret Service. "However, every incident demands a review of how it might possibly be made better."

"I guess we could close down Pennsylvania Avenue, but that would be like a police state," Mr. Cosper continued. "We could put a bubble over the White House, but our society wouldn't tolerate such a thing."

Meanwhile, the intruder, identified as Marshall H. Fields, underwent a series of psychological and psychiatric tests today at St. Elizabeths Hospital here.

Held Police at Bay

He was taken to the hospital after holding the police and security officers at bay for nearly four hours yesterday morning, just a few feet from the north portico of the White House.

President Ford and his family were vacationing in Vail, Colo., and the White House was empty except for staff members. Secret Service agents and guards were on the grounds.

A hospital spokesman said that such tests and observations generally took about a week. Mr. Fields, who is 25 years old and the son of a deceased American diplomat, was placed in the maximum security section of the hospital after the Secret Service asked that he be classified as "an unusual risk."

Mr. Cosper said today that the Secret Service had been in consultation with the United States Attorney's office but that no charges had been filed, pending the outcome of the hospital tests.

Mr. Cosper did not rule out the possibility that newer, more secure gates might be installed at the six entrances to the White House grounds. The gates are made of cast iron and were strengthened most recently during the Johnson Administration in the mid-nineteen-sixties.

The crash knocked down the right half of the electronically operated gate on Pennsylvania Avenue. The left half was badly battered and knocked partly off its hinges.

Make-Shift Barrier

A uniformed officer stood guard today over a make-shift barrier. On duty inside the nearby guard house adjoining the gate were four other uniformed officers, members of the Executive Protection Service, formerly called the White House Police Force.

Aside from the broken gate, there was little evidence today of yesterday's incident. There were no extra officers on duty.

Mr. Cosper conceded today that Mr. Fields "was of record with us" before crashing through the White House gates.

"We were aware of him from a prior matter," Mr. Cosper said, but he declined to identify the incident. "We did not have him under surveillance because we felt he did not demand such attention," Mr. Cosper added.

He also said it was still not known why Mr. Fields had chosen the White House as the site for his demand to speak to the Ambassador of Pakistan.

Dressed Like Arab

Mr. Fields, who wore an Arab-style headdress and was seemingly laden with explosives, had demanded to speak to the Pakistani Ambassador, Sahabzada Yaqub Kahn, during the four hours he stood near the north portico, just under the Presidential family's living quarters. The Ambassador said he did not know Mr. Fields and refused to meet with him.

Security officers defended their decision for not moving more forcefully against the intruder by saying they feared that the young man might blow himself up or blow up the White House.

Tucked into Mr. Fields's belt was what appeared to be a stick of dynamite. Packets that

appeared to be explosives, but later proved to be railroad warning flares, were attached to his knees, and he held wires in his black-gloved hands.

Spoke in Arabic

Early in his confrontation with security officers who surrounded him from a short distance away, Mr. Fields spoke only in Arabic. He had spent much of his youth in Sudan, Iraq and Libya, where his father was assigned with the Agency for International Development.

Later, an Arabic-speaking translator was furnished by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to interpret the conversations, according to the Secret Service. Mr. Fields eventually spoke in English.

The confrontation ended at 11 A.M. when Mr. Fields surrendered, after his demand to meet the Ambassador was broadcast over WHUR, the Howard University radio station—a broadcast to which he listened in his car radio.

Mr. Cosper said the Secret Service would have taken much stronger action against the intruder if the Fords had been in the White House or if there had been evidence that Mr. Fields had threatened the President or his family.

"So far as we know, he wasn't after any of our protectees," Mr. Cosper said.

Identified as 'Messiah'

Mr. Fields had sent parcels of materials to several news organizations in the Washington area recently, indicating that he would take some sort of action against the Government on Christmas Day. He identified himself as "the Messiah to those who wish to believe."

While Mr. Fields was one of a few persons who succeeded in forcibly gaining access to the White House grounds, spokesmen for the Secret Service have said that such attempted incidents were not uncommon.

Testifying last spring before a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, H. S. Knight, director of the Secret Service, said that, in 1973, his agency interviewed 411 White House "visitors" who behaved in a strange manner. Of these, he said, 129 were referred to St. Elizabeths Hospital for observation.

"Several of those released (from the hospital) returned to the White House at later dates or in a few instances on the same date," Mr. Knight said. In these cases, he added, the individuals were referred to the hospital again and accepted for treatment.