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Kissinger's 'Vital' Trash

By Maxine Cheshire

The Secret Service has asked The National Enquirer for the return of security-related documents taken recently from the trash of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and is "reviewing" the possibility of disciplinary action against the agents involved.

The newspaper claimed that its much-publicized rubbish raid on Kissinger's Georgetown home had yielded "hundreds" of Secret Service memos and work schedules which would "be of vital interest to a potential assassin."

The documents revealed, among other things, the Secret Service's code name for Kissinger, detailed information on upcoming travel schedules, the names and duty days of all agents assigned to him, the names of some of his agents who had failed last month to qualify on the pistol range, the number and types of arms and ammunition carried by his bodyguards and the existence of a new kind of code light signal system in use on his limousine.

The potential sensitivity of the information that could be gleaned from Kissinger's garbage cans has forced

the Secret Service to view the entire matter in a more serious light than at first. At first, the whole affair was treated humorously and even the Kissingers themselves were able to laugh after their initial anger.

But it is no longer a laughing matter for agents who let the documents get into the trash.

A Secret Service spokesman, Jack Warner, confirmed this week that he has written a letter to The Enquirer, asking that they voluntarily return all the papers in question.

Warner said: "If papers of the type mentioned are in their possession, a review of our procedures will follow."

Warner denied that the Secret Service has already called a board of inquiry to determine which agents had been careless enough to allow the papers to fall into someone else's hands.

No action can be taken, he said, until the Secret Service can examine the papers in question. Then, a knowledgeable source said, Civil Service regulations will be followed as to whether a punitive reprimand or disciplinary action is in order.

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VIP, From E1

Meanwhile, The Enquirer refuses to say whether or not they will surrender the papers, which now legally belong to reporter Jay Gourley, who claimed them off the sidewalk as abandoned property.

The paper is known to be preparing other stories from the papers, including one on visitors to Kissinger's office whose presence is never made known to reporters covering the State Department.