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Who Tore Anti-War Sign Down

Washington

The Secret Service said yesterday that a White House volunteer, not one of its agents, was responsible for tearing down a protest sign during a visit to Pekin, Ill., last month by President Nixon.

"A photograph and numerous witnesses drew attention to a particular individual who allegedly tore down a citizen's protest banner," the Secret Service said.

"The Secret Service, in conjunction with the White House, has identified the man in this photograph as a volunteer White House advance man, Peter C. Murphy of Eugene, Ore."

A spokesman for the Secret Service said the agency investigated the incident at the request of Illinois Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III and Charles Percy.

The senators requested the investigation after members of an anti-war group known as the Indochina Peace Campaign said they were prevented from displaying a sign protesting U.S. bombing in Cambodia when Mr. Nixon visited Pekin on June 15.

Members of the Indochina Peace Campaign said they were prevented from displaying an anti-war banner when the presidential motorcade arrived at the site.

They said they managed to display the sign briefly after Mr. Nixon finished speaking but that it was torn down by a man carrying a walkie-talkie and wearing an orange lapel pin apparently identifying him as a part of the security forces on hand to guard the President.

Associated Press