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Snoops Strike Again

Washington

The Defense Department acknowledged yesterday that its security agents have again conducted a nighttime foray on the Pentagon press room and rummaged through newsroom desks, but it said this was a mistake and will not be repeated.

A spokesman said Daniel

Z. Henkin, assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, "was very distressed to know this happened." The spokesman said Henkin was told by the security people this "was an inadvertent check" and "will not happen again."

Reporters were given a similar assurance by Henkin several months ago but on

arriving for work Wednesday they found cards on the desks of correspondents for Time magazine and the New York Daily News which said:

"An inspection of this office area by the Pentagon Counter-Intelligence Force revealed no violations of security regulations."

Associated Press