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Compassion Cited In Lack of Gunplay During Incursion

Suspect

By Fred Barbash
Washington Post Staff Writer

By all available accounts, Marshall Hill Fields, had tried repeatedly to draw attention to himself in recent months and had given notice that he intended to do something dramatic on Christmas day.

WRC-TV news yesterday reported receiving a written statement in recent days from a man claiming to be Fields, which said: "I will denounce my citizenship to this country on Dec. 25, 1974, and if it is God's will, I will be out of this country to seek political asylum in one of the countries now known to be a member of the Third World."

The statement also said: "I am an applicant to the Islamic Party in North America though I bear full responsibility for my actions against the government of the United States of America."

The statement discussed Fields' conversion from Christianity to Islam, but neither there, nor in federal authorities' accounts of what Fields told them, was there a clear explanation for his dramatic morning appearance on the White House grounds yesterday carrying what he said were explosives.

This and other incidents indicating erratic behavior by a man named Marshall Fields all occurred after Fields' father died of cancer in May, according to friends and associates. Marshall L. Fields, who neighbors and friends said was the father of the younger Fields, was an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development and had been stationed in a number of Arabic speaking countries in Africa with his family.

Secret Service spokesman William Hawthorne said that Fields had been a person of interest to the Secret Service. But the spokesman would not say why or whether its interest was connected with the communications from a Marshall Fields.

At least two other news agencies or reporters received similar messages, in recent weeks, included in a packet of materials, from a person claiming to be Marshall Fields. One of them, Ken Owen, a correspondent for the Argus newspapers in South Africa, said he for-

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Security

By Martin Weil
Washington Post Staff Writer

Top-level federal officials responsible for presidential security expressed satisfaction yesterday with the handling of the incident in which a man in a car smashed his way past a police guardhouse and drove onto the White House grounds.

At the same time, officials also said they expected the gate-crashing, which occurred only 10 months after the landing of a stolen helicopter on the South Lawn of the White House, would lead to a review of security measures there.

The incident "was handled in the usual professional ... manner the Secret Service handles problems," said Treasury Secretary William E. Simon. The Secret Service is a branch of the Treasury Department.

"We don't feel it's necessary to take a man's life on a penetration (onto the grounds) with an empty White House," a Secret Service spokesman said, noting that President Ford and his family are away on vacation. However, he added, if any member of the First Family had been inside, the Service would have used "a completely different approach, a much harder line."

While officials suggested that the breakthrough at the northwest gate was unavoidable, Simon added that "the thing now is to see how similar things could be prevented from happening again."

"I'm sure there will be studies and evaluation of this incident," said Earl Drescher, chief of the Executive Protective Service, the uniformed arm of the Secret Service, which guards both foreign diplomatic missions and the White House.

Officials said yesterday marked the first time anyone had broken through the Northwest gate, part of the first line of physical security at the White House.

The gate, about 20 feet from the Pennsylvania Avenue NW curb, offers access to a curving driveway of about 100 yards, at the end of which stands the Executive Mansion itself.

Made of cast iron, according to White House curator Clement E. Conger, the black-painted fence and gates on the north side of the White House were erected at the end of the 19th century and strength-

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Suspect Attempted To Attract Attention

FIELDS, From A1

warded the material to federal authorities.

The materials, as described by Owen and federal officials who received them, included photographs of a man, possibly Fields himself, dressed in Arab clothing kneeling in prayer before the U.S. Capitol. In the same packet, he included old newspaper clippings that mentioned his name, religious tracts concerning Islam, and old cables received by his late father when he was an official of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

At least some of the documents, which ultimately wound up in the hands of AID security officials, were signed "Merry Christmas."

A member of a Silver Spring Jehovah's Witnesses congregation also recalled a man she identified as Fields being escorted from a religious service there after shouting unintelligible slogans and jumping to his feet.

Fields, who also went by the name Abdul Rahim, was born in 1949 in Nashville, Tenn., according to records of a former employer, the Barwood Taxicab Co. in Montgomery county.

According to Paul Hathaway, a spokesman for Howard University, Fields had been a student there majoring in sociology from September, 1969, until the fall of 1970.

After his father's death, Fields apparently exhibited

an interest in Islamic religion.

"All of a sudden," Lee Barnes, his former employer at the taxicab company recalled, Fields began distributing religious pamphlets and "preaching" about religion. Barnes said Fields had an accident-free record as a taxicab driver and worked full time before he quit around Sept. 1.

A spokesman for the Community Mosque in Washington said that young Fields had "been here" although he refused to elaborate pending a press conference called for today by the mosque. The spokesman, Ibrahim Hanif, said that metropolitan police officers had appeared at the mosque yesterday to ask questions about Fields.

Fields sent the documents to Owen and at least one other Africa-oriented news agency in Washington as well as WRC-TV. Owen said he forwarded the packet to the State Department, which forwarded it, after review, to the Agency for International Development. Frank Scordato, assistant director of AID's office of Eastern and Southern African Affairs, said he reviewed the material. Daniel H. Simpson, a State Department country officer for Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, said he also reviewed the material.

With one exception — Owen's recollection of Field's statement saying he would renounce his citizenship on Dec. 25 — the accounts of the three men who have seen the packet agree.

It included several photographs, including the one of

a man in Arab garb kneeling before the Capitol. There was a copy of an old article from the Pittsburgh Courier (the Fieldses were originally from Pittsburgh) about the elder Fields' work in Africa and the Fields family.

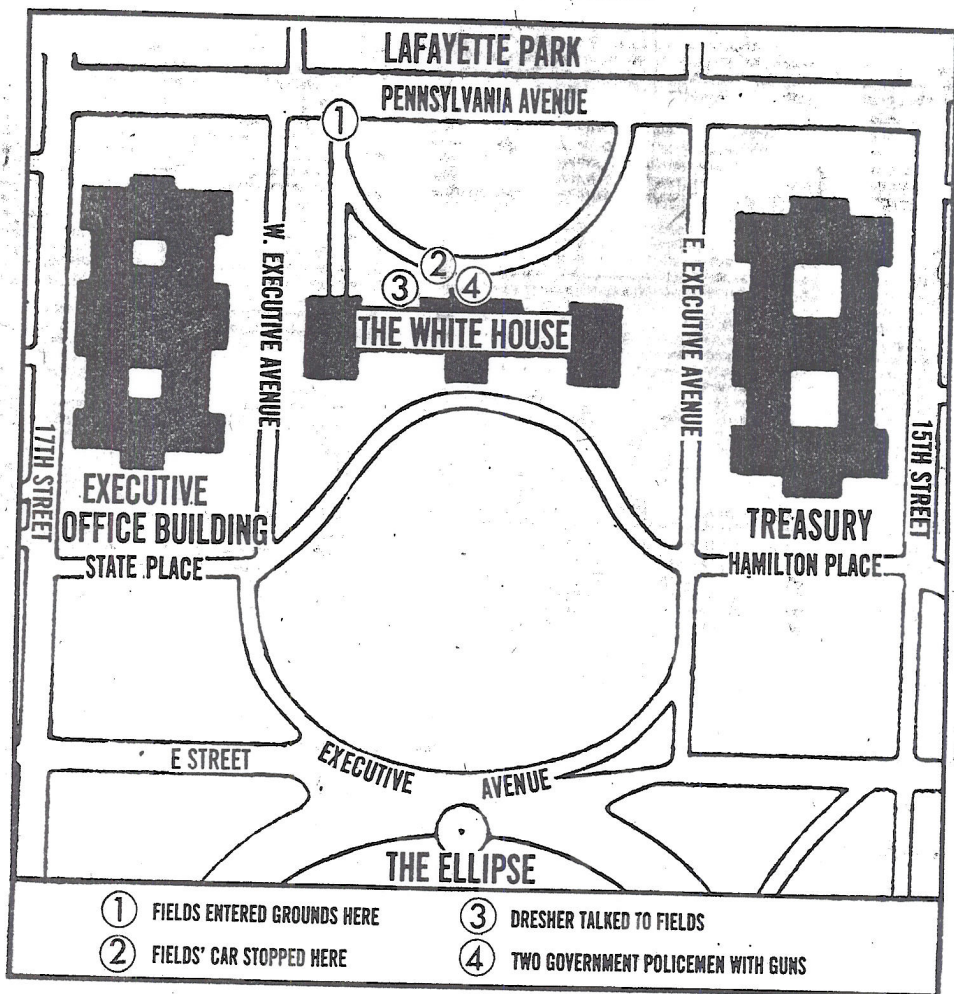
There was a Black Muslim tract and a tract apparently written by the younger Fields declaring his religious beliefs. The packet also included a copy of a cable sent a year ago to Field's father from Swaziland dealing with an AID educational project there. The cable was stamped "unclassified" but the "un" had been crossed out.

Owen and the two government officials said the cable contained no sensitive information and concerned "a very innocuous project," according to Simpson.

The packet also included old AID travel orders transferring Fields and his family from African countries. Owen said that one of these travel orders had "Project 007" inscribed on the top. "Agent 007" was the code term for James Bond, the fictitious British spy created by Ian Fleming.

"It was cranky stuff," said Owen. Owen said he made some calls to see if there might be a story in any of the materials and concluded there was not. Owen said some of the material included drawings, apparently made with a compass, of a crescent moon within a circle.

"I consulted security people at AID," Scordato said.



The Washington Post

"They evaluated it and it seemed to be from a person who wanted attention."

The Jehovah's Witness incident occurred within the past six months, according to Naomi Lynch, who said she belonged to the Silver Spring West congregation on University Boulevard. Mrs. Lynch said that on two occasions Fields attended congregation gatherings with his mother, who was a member. She said that he "disrupted by hollering slogans" which she said were "unintelligible," and was asked to leave.

The Fields family lives in a middle income area of Silver Spring near the Beltway. Homes in the neighborhood are now selling for around \$50,000. It is a quiet neighborhood.

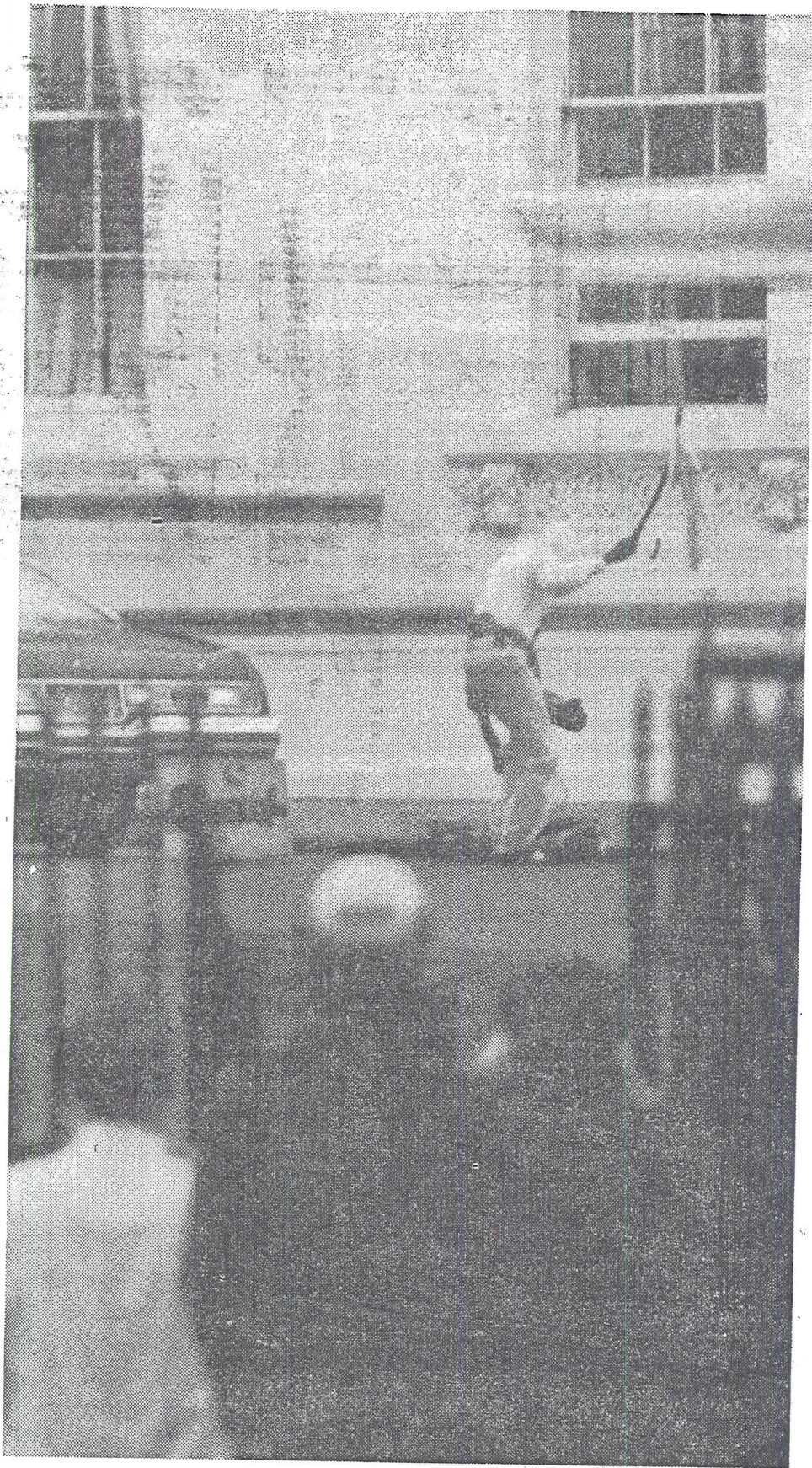
Young Fields had lived with his family for years and traveled with them to many of the countries to which his father had been assigned. His father had served in Iraq, Ngera, Libya,

the Sudan, and other countries before returning to Washington where he became deputy chief of education for Southeast Africa, according to an AID spokesman.

Fields moved away from his family's home in Silver Spring "a couple of years ago," Scordato recalled being told by the father. The

father was upset about this, Scordato said, and also upset when young Fields left college before completing work for a degree.

After his father's death, Fields returned to the Silver Spring home to be with his mother, according to neighbors. Scordato said the son delivered a eulogy at the funeral.



By Joe Heiberger—The Washington Post

Marshall Hill Fields takes off "explosives" while holding surrender flag aloft in front drive of White House, where he had held off guards for four hours.

White House Guards Praised

SECURITY, From A1

ened several times since then, most recently in the Johnson Administration.

"It's a pretty strong fence right now," said Rep. Tom Steed (D-Okla.) who heads the Appropriations Subcommittee, which deals with the Secret Service budget. Nonetheless, he added, the gate is a "vulnerable point, I'd think."

Park Police Lt. Carl R. Holmberg said Marshall Hill Fields was traveling at an estimated 25 to 30 miles an hour when he broke through the gate, ripping one of its two panels from its moorings and damaging the other.

The impact damaged both fenders and the right side of the windshield of Field's car, but left him apparently uninjured.

Drescher was asked if there was any way such a break-in could have been prevented under present circumstances. The fact that it occurred shows that it could not have been stopped, he replied.

Whether stronger gates should now be put up is one of the questions security officials will consider, Secretary Simon said.

According to Rep. Steed and others interviewed, yesterday's events underscore the question raised by the helicopter incident in February—to what extent can security measures be devised to protect even against what the Congressman called "these kinds of wild, unanticipated situations."

"It's pretty hard," he added "to be prepared against just anything."

Concerned with preventing any conceivable attack on the President, and spurred by the helicopter incident, Steed said, the Secret Service has been studying to a greater extent than ever before, measures to be taken against the "once in a lifetime, wild-eyed thing."

Such studies, he said, will undoubtedly be given further stimulus by yesterday's occurrence, and will probably lead to new security proposals at budget hearings set for February.

At the same time, Chief Drescher said, absolute security that would eliminate any possibility of an incident such as yesterday's may not be possible under "our life-style . . ."

Putting such security in

effect, he said, would be "most difficult without" making the White House "an armed camp . . . a very difficult thing . . ."

Among security measures that are in use, according to Conger, is bullet-proof glass over the north windows of the executive mansion, and, according to Rep. Steed, and electronic sensor atop the Pennsylvania Avenue fence.

"They have an electronic detection system so they can sit in a control room and be aware of unusual disturbances around the perimeter," he said in an interview from his home in Shawnee, Okla.

"If a person crawled over the fence," he said, "by the time he got to about the third bush (on the lawn) he'd probably be looking a Secret Service man in the face."

Even if an intruder entered the grounds with the President in the White House, Steed said, it would be unlikely he could reach the Chief Executive. "It's a large place and there are a lot of them (guards)," he said. "You wouldn't have very long to move around."

While giving little detail, Secret Service spokesman George Coper said the President's guards used two different approaches with an intruder, depending on whether or not the President or other members of the first family are in the White House.

Had the President been in the White House yesterday "this individual would never have gotten that close," Coper said.

Knowing the President to be away, Coper said, the EPS officers deployed in "strategic positions," in both fixed and roving posts, took action that was "much more compassionate than killing or opening fire or taking a hard line approach."

It is known that the Secret Service would shoot to kill in the event of a direct threat to the President.

During yesterday's incident, several EPS officers drew their revolvers and at least one officer carried a shotgun, according to a law enforcement source.

EPS officers were reported to have fired shotguns at the helicopter that landed on the south lawn in February. They were also reported to have had submachine guns available.