

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 14, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

We have one other announcement to make today. Because of the recent bombing at the State Department and the threat of possible terrorist activity, which is unpredictable, the Secret Service has decided that it is necessary to institute closer checks on bags and briefcases and other packages brought into the White House area.

This is being done for the security of the President and for everyone in the White House, including you and me.

Basically, what this means is a very brief check through bags and equipment at the gates when you come in, and obviously there is no harrassment involved here at all.

The procedures have been designed to be very quick and simple and to have a minimum amount of delay. I am sure that everyone will cooperate in this for our mutual safety.

This President, as you know, has more frequent and closer contact with members of the press and the Secret Service feels we need to institute this procedure.

There is absolutely no thought whatever that any member of the press is a threat to the President. The thought by the Secret Service is that many of you have briefcases and camera bags and other things which distinctly indentify you as people who come into the White House frequently.

The fear is that someone would put something into your bag when you were not aware of it.

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