



# THE RECORD

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## THE CHIEF SAYS:

Following are excerpts from a talk by the Vice President before the National Press Club in Washington, D. C., on May 21:

'Now, turning to some specific comments with regard to people who were on this trip, may I mention one group which seldom gets mentioned and get their pictures in the paper usually only when their backs are to the camera. I speak of the Secret Service. In both Peru and in Venezuela there was a very small number of Secret Service men. And I think that one of the greatest tributes to the Secret Service and the performance of these men is the fact that where there was a possibility that someone might have been injured--despite the provocation, in neither of these countries was anybody killed nor seriously injured. The greatest credit goes not to me, not to the members of our party, but to the Secret Service who showed tremendous restraint, who took a great deal of abuse, and who handled themselves magnificently.

"Of course, I have a personal interest--the Secret Service is there to protect me. I didn't want to get killed. But, on the other hand, as most of you can imagine, there were the international repercussions and the national repercussions, in the event that one of them had found it necessary to use a weapon. You can see what the results would have been from the standpoint of the United States. "

I have also been told personally by many members of the party, including the press, of the excellent work of the agents.

Needless to say, I am very proud to hear such commendations, as I am sure everyone in the Secret Service will be. The actions of these agents reflect credit upon the Service as a whole, as well as upon themselves individually. The restraint which they exercised under trying circumstances was a result of training and experience, and I know that under similar circumstances every agent in the field, if on this assignment, would have conducted himself in an equally creditable manner.

**\* \* TRAFFIC LAWS PROTECT YOU - OBEY THEM! \* \***

There is reproduced in this issue a letter received from President Eisenhower commending the members of this Service assigned to the Vice Presidential Detail during the South American tour. Copies of the President's letter are being furnished the following personnel who were on this assignment:

John T. Sherwood (In Charge of Detail)  
Ernest I. Aragon  
Howard D. Grubb  
Harry B. Hastings  
H. Stuart Knight  
Leroy M. Letteer  
Andrew P. O'Malley  
Emory P. Roberts  
Wade J. Rodham  
John E. Schley  
Charles E. Taylor, Jr.  
Robert H. Taylor

There is also reproduced a commendatory letter received from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury A. Gilmore Flues.

The letters from the President and Mr. Flues represent a distinct honor for the Service.

RIF

*Secret Service protectees travel to parts of the world where U.S. policy is not always welcomed or embraced. The following situations shed light on this heightened atmosphere where the agents' performance and demeanor were critical in ensuring the safety of their protectees.*

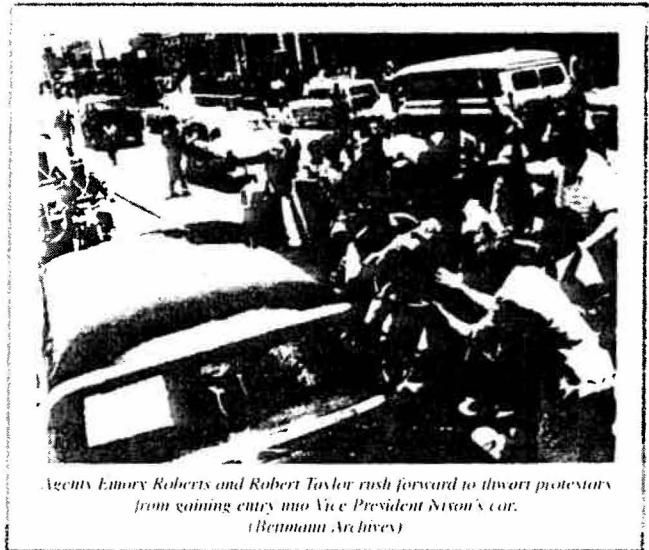
### ***KOREA: DECEMBER 2-5, 1952***

Usually the pre-inaugural period allows the Secret Service time to become familiar with a new President's characteristics, mannerisms, and uniqueness. This time eases the establishment of security measures that agents will effect when the President is sworn into office. However, during the 1952 Presidential election, Dwight Eisenhower promised voters that he would travel to Korea to see firsthand what he could do to end the conflict. Three weeks after being elected, the President-elect kept his word and embarked on a 6-day covert trip. The serious nature of the mission required the Secret Service to employ many techniques to move the President-elect secretly to the airport from his home.

After arriving in Korea, President-elect Eisenhower traveled to unstable battlefield lines, some of which the enemy captured just hours after he departed. An enemy sniper killed an American soldier at a site where the former General had visited the day before. The war-zone caused great concern for the agents protecting the President-elect. They often improvised and used innovative techniques to ensure their protectee's safety.

### ***CARACAS, VENEZUELA: MAY 13, 1958***

During a goodwill tour of South America in 1958, Vice President and Mrs. Nixon found themselves in grave danger. Demonstrators in



*Agents Emory Roberts and Robert Taylor rush forward to thwart protesters from gaining entry into Vice President Nixon's car.  
(Benmann Archives)*

## *Tension & Turmoil*



*Agents H. Stuart Knight and Robert Taylor examine the Vice President's automobile. Agent Knight was appointed Director of the Secret Service in 1973. (U.S. Secret Service)*

Caracas, Venezuela, purposely disrupted the airport welcoming ceremony by shouting, blowing whistles, waving derogatory placards, throwing stones, and showering the Nixons with human spittle and chewing tobacco. This greeting was just a prelude to an ever-increasing volatile day. A series of roadblocks halted the Vice President's motorcade. As club and pipe wielding protestors damaged the vehicles, Secret Service agents remained with their protectees.



while local police authorities did not intervene. Although they were being spat upon and shoved, agents used their open palms, rather than their fists or weapons, to prevent the mob from entering the cars. A shell casing struck one agent; dazed and bleeding from a head wound, he continued to assist in keeping the crowd back. When the mob began to rock the Vice President's car in hopes of overturning it and setting it ablaze, agents inside the vehicle drew their weapons, but held their fire. The perilous situation was averted by using a large flatbed truck containing the news media. The truck slowly cleared a path through the crowd.

The remaining ceremonies scheduled that day were canceled. It was later discovered that a cache of Molotov cocktails was stored in a building adjacent to where the Vice President was to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony. The Vice Presidential party left Caracas the following day.

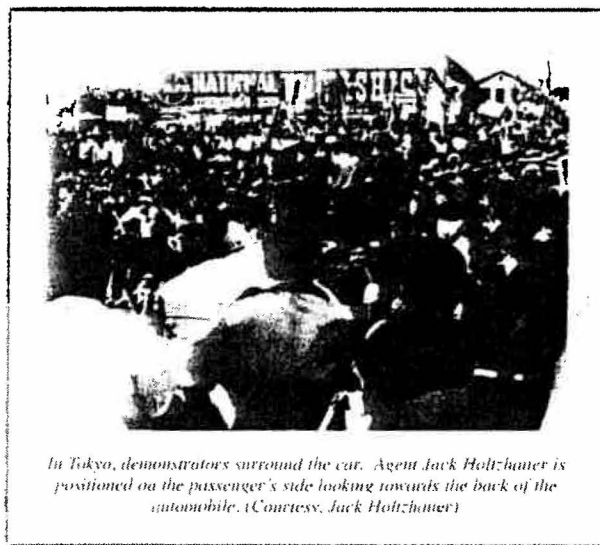
The performance of the agents did not go unnoticed. In a letter to Secretary of the Treasury Robert B. Anderson, the Vice President recommended that each agent be awarded the Exceptional Civilian Award and a citation for their heroism. In part, the letter read:

*"In Caracas, at a time when local police protection was virtually nonexistent, they [agents] moved back an armed mob with bare hands, then broke the road block and freed the motorcade so that it could proceed out of danger. There is no doubt in my mind but that, had any one of them failed to exercise that rare combination of restraint and courage in an exemplary degree, bloodshed might*

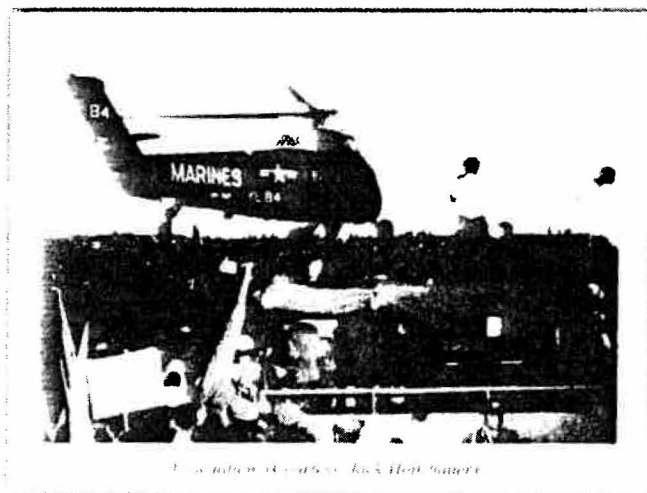
*have resulted which could have led to almost frightening international repercussions."*<sup>10</sup>

### **TOKYO, JAPAN: JUNE 10, 1960**

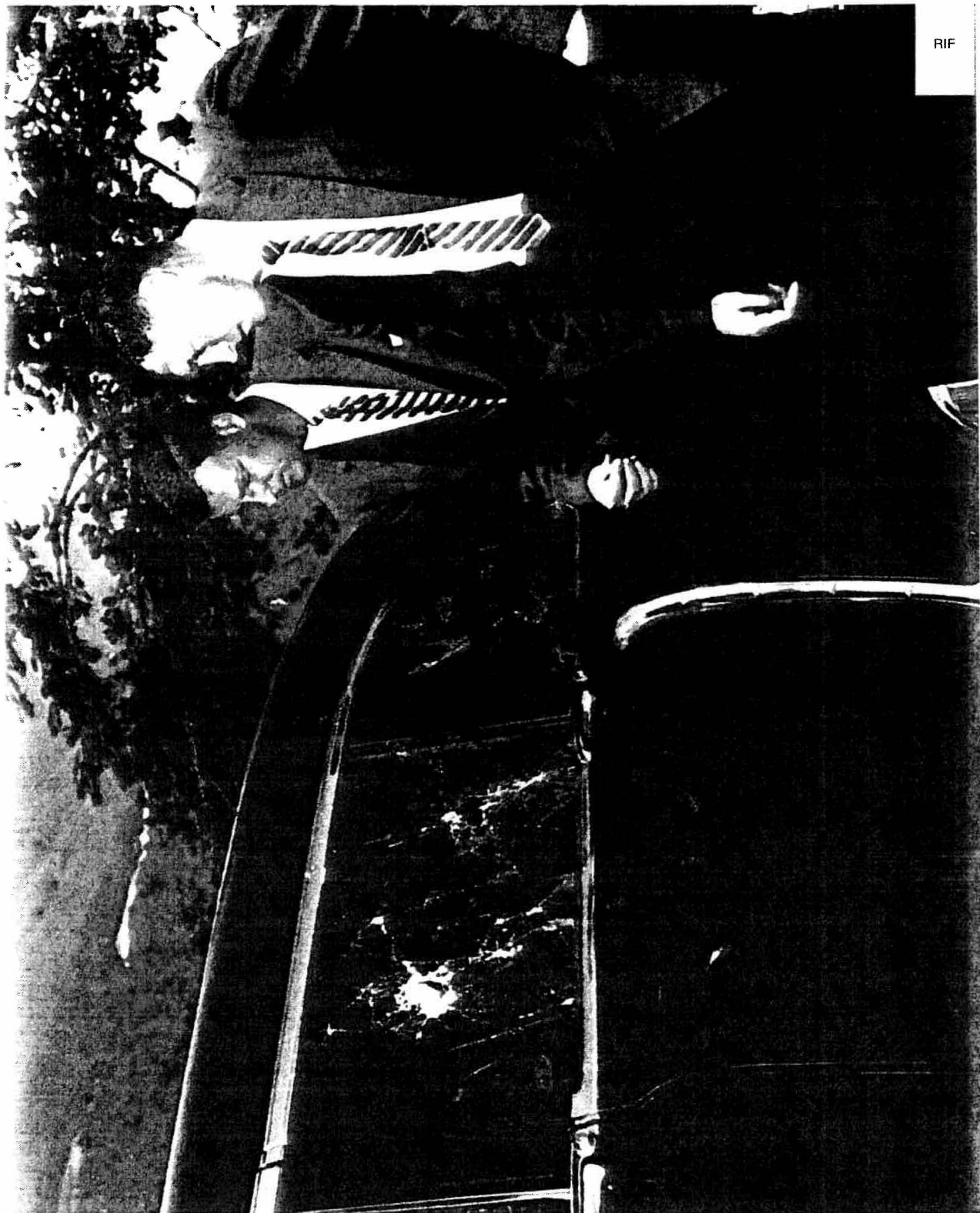
In preparation for President Eisenhower's visit to Japan during his 1960 trip to Asia, Secret Service agents went to Tokyo to establish security arrangements. On June 10th, several thousand protestors upset with Japanese-U.S. relations surrounded, attacked, and disabled the car containing the White House Press Secretary, the Appointments Secretary and the U.S. Ambassador to Japan.



*In Tokyo, demonstrators surround the car. Agent Jack Holtzhauser is positioned on the passenger's side looking towards the back of the automobile. (Courtesy, Jack Holtzhauser)*



*Helicopter flies over crowd in Tokyo. (Courtesy, Jack Holtzhauser)*



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Department of the Treasury. United States Secret Service Moments in History.  
Washington, D.C.: 2001.