



Dallas News Staff Photo

Police Chief Jesse Curry
... the ambassador did
an about face.

Chief Hits Critics Of Adlai's Escort

U.N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson's police detail had noisy demonstrators under control until the ambassador broke step with the escort and went into the crowd to shake hands, Police Chief Jesse E. Curry said Friday.

Firing back at criticism that Dallas police mishandled Stevenson's safety, the visibly irked Curry declared:

"The crowd was well back and the corridor was cleared all the way to his car. About 15 feet from the car, he (Stevenson) turned and left his escort and walked over to the crowd to shake hands.

"There is no way to protect a person who does this if he insists in going into a crowd of unfriendly people."

Curry said Stevenson exited from the Canton Street side of Memorial Auditorium surrounded by eight officers. Special riot officers blocked off spectators who surged toward Stevenson's car when they saw it parked at the entrance.

Police reported they had purposely left the car parked at the front of the auditorium until the last minute to make demonstrators and supporters of the ambassador alike believe Stevenson would be leaving by the front entrance. On a signal, the car was whisked to the side door.

With the car door open and

LARGE POLICE GUARD PLANNED FOR KENNEDY

Signs Friday pointed to the greatest concentration of Dallas police ever for the protection of a high-ranking dignitary when President Kennedy visits Dallas next month.

Police Chief Jesse E. Curry said Friday he is considering calling in more than 100 off-duty officers in order to provide a covering force of 200 or more officers for the nation's chief executive.

The Stevenson incident and the criticism leveled against police in the wake of it did not influence his decision for a heavy police force for Kennedy's visit, Curry said.

The deployment of the special force, he said, is yet to be worked out with the U.S. Secret Service.

two motorcycle officers ready to escort it, Curry said the ambassador had only to walk 30 feet.

"Had he gone all the way with the escort we would have had him in the car and out in no time with no trouble," Curry said.

Night Police Chief Jack Tanner, highest ranking officer on the scene, said all was proceeding according to plan up to the moment Stevenson left his escort.

Tanner said Stevenson's move toward the crowd increased ex-

citement and the throng surged through policemen to meet him.

Formal protests to Curry's office by mid-afternoon Friday numbered only one telephone call and two telegrams.

One—from the president of the San Francisco chapter of the American Association for the United Nations — declared:

"Shocked Dallas police unable to adequately protect U.N. Ambassador from extremists. Incident does injustice to Texas and the nation."

A Waco resident wired: "Stevenson incident blot on Dallas law enforcement."

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 1374