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Globe

# Mental patient charged with threat to kill Bush

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A mental patient with a 14-year history of threatening the lives of public officials was arrested yesterday by US Secret Service agents and charged with threatening to kill Vice President George Bush.

James W. Paradise, 34, formerly of Waltham, was arrested in a bar on Cambridge Street by agents who said he admitted threatening Bush in telephone calls to The Boston Globe and the Associated Press.

In US District Court last night, Paradise told spectators, "I'll still kill Bush." But moments later he told Magistrate Patti B. Saris, "I didn't make the threat." She ordered him held pending another court hearing today.

As he was led out, Paradise said, "I was the diversion." He mentioned the name of another person and said "He has got the gun and he's going to do it."

Asked what he had against the vice president, Paradise said, "He is CIA."

Paradise walked away from the Massachusetts Mental Health Center in Boston early Wednesday evening where he was being treated.

Authorities said he was a patient at Bridgewater State Hospital for about eight years and was being evaluated at the Boston center when he walked out without authorization.

At 2:20 a.m. according to court documents, he telephoned the Globe, stating that he was armed

and on his way to Washington to find the vice president.

He said he was carrying a Japanese hand grenade and two pistols and he was traveling with two accomplices, one of whom he described as an armed robber wanted by Boston police.

About 9 a.m. yesterday, according to documents, Paradise called the mental health center, said he was in Washington, and gave the telephone number from where he was calling.

The FBI and Secret Service traced the number to a pay phone at Sporter's Bar on Cambridge Street. The agents said that when confronted at the bar, Paradise admitted threatening Bush and making the phone calls.

State Police Lt. Frank O'Halloran said Paradise had walked away from the Massachusetts Mental Health Center before, on Jan. 13, and then turned himself in to troopers at State Police headquarters in Boston.

Yesterday, O'Halloran, who has known Paradise for about 12 years, received a call from him, indicating that he might turn himself in. "He is extremely intelligent and pleasant to talk to, but he likes the attention. If you added up all the calls and threats over the years, it adds up to a chronic but serious nuisance," he said.

In 1975, a US District Court jury found Paradise not guilty by reason of insanity on charges of making threats. He was accused of sending death threats to US District Judge Frank H. Freedman and former US Magistrate Willie J. Davis.