



PLAZA HOTEL SECURITY OFFICERS SHOOT SUSPECT

August 8, 2000 9:18 AM EDT

NEW YORK (AP) _ A **SECURITY OFFICER** at the swank Plaza Hotel traded gunshots with a burglary suspect after the man fired at guards outside of the landmark hotel.

The suspect, whose name was not released, was wounded in the arm. No other injuries were reported. He was hospitalized Tuesday in stable condition and is charged with burglary, attempted murder and criminal possession of a weapon.

The incident occurred Monday evening after *SECURITY OFFICERS* saw the suspect, who was wearing a blue suit and tie, milling about in the hotel lobby. The **OFFICERS** recognized the man from previous surveillance videotapes of a theft, police said.

After the **OFFICERS** chased him out the hotel, he shot at them, prompting one **SECURITY OFFICER** to shoot back at the suspect, police said. It is not clear if any hotel guests were nearby at the time.

Despite being struck in the arm with a bullet, the gunman attempted to flee the scene by hopping into a taxi about a block away. However, police blocked off the vehicle and when the suspect jumped out, he was wrestled to the ground, witnesses said.

Telephone calls made to the Plaza Hotel went unanswered. The Plaza is located on Fifth Avenue and Central Park South, a busy tourist area and one of the most ritzy sections of the city.

16 FORMER PINKERTON SECURITY OFFICERS ACCUSED

August 9, 2000 10:33 PM EDT

EL PASO, Texas (AP) _ Sixteen **security officers** who worked for a security company that made its name chasing down Wild West train robbers have been accused of stealing more than \$1.5 million in merchandise from trains they were hired to protect.

``These officers were operating outside the course and scope of their employment by us," said James Fox, a spokesman for Westlake Village, Calif.-based Pinkerton.

``They were padding the (theft) reports," U.S. Customs Service special agent John Kelley said at a Wednesday news conference. ``If there were 100 TVs missing, they took 20 more and then they reported that 120 were missing."

The stolen items included computer components, stereos, microwave ovens, televisions, cellular phones, automotive tool sets, fax machines, and even pistachios and cheese balls. Some of the items were recovered in the former **security officers'** homes.

Officials said 15 of the former **security officers** have been convicted and are serving sentences ranging from 18 months in prison to three years of probation.