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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

SUBJECT: Klaus Barbie AKA Klaus Altmann

Background: Agency records reflect that Klaus Barbie was a member of the German security service during World War II, principally in Lyon, France. He was described as being brutal, cruel and reportedly shot his French agents when no longer useful. After the war the French communist press accused Barbie of being responsible for the death of 5,000 partisans. Following the war, Barbie was a witness in several trials involving war criminals and his wartime activities were investigated by the American authorities. The investigation was inconclusive and he was released.

From 1946 to 1951, Barbie was a source of the Army Counterintelligence Corps (CIC) in West Germany and was considered to be a valuable source of information. In 1951, because of French and German efforts to apprehend him, Barbie was documented as Klaus Altmann and routed through Austria and Italy to Bolivia where he was resettled. The US Army had no contact with him following his resettlement in Bolivia.

In April 1970 a Paris newspaper planned to publish a story on Barbie. The story was that Barbie had been sentenced to death in absentia in 1947, that he had been used by US intelligence and the West German BND service, and that he had been protected by US intelligence against French attempts to have him extradited from West Germany. (It is not known whether this story was ever published.)

In May 1970 the Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence advised CIA that Senator Jacob Javits' office had received a letter in June 1966 regarding Barbie. (No further information.) Senator Javits had sent the letter to the Department of State which sent the letter to the Army. The Army reportedly responded to the letter. (No further information.)

Recommendation: The CIA has had absolutely no contact or involvement with Barbie. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the Agency not make any public statement whatsoever concerning Barbie. To do so could be misconstrued by the media and/or the general public. If per chance a statement of "no comment" places the Agency in an untenable position, then as a last resort and only if deemed unavoidable, the Agency could possibly refer any inquiries regarding Barbie to the Department of Defense.

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} Army

WARNING NOTICE - Intelligence
Sources or Methods Involved

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