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62318

ACTION UNIT: None FILE: VI OR/SR04, OR/WES, ONE, OSR Z, OSO/2

ACTION NO.: OR/W, D/FOIS, WH3, EUR3, OAB, FI

NNNNVV EIA443KLF167  
 RR RUEAII3  
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 R 251755Z FEB 72  
 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6229  
 INFO RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 104  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T CIA L LA PAZ 1056

SUBJECT: ALTMANN CASE  
 REF: STATE 030923

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT HE PRESENTED EFURD-PERSON NOTE TO GOB ASKING THAT ALTMANN BE DETAINED AS A FORMAL REQUEST FOR HIS EXTRADITION. ISSUED BY A FRENCH COURT, WOULD BE PRESENTED. ALTMANN WAS DETAINED BY BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUEST, WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, WAS PRESENTED. SUBSEQUENTLY, ALTMANN WAS RELEASED BUT, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, HE IS UNDER POLICE GUARD. THE AMBASSADOR DOES NOT KNOW WHY FOMINISTER GSTIERREZ HAS STATED PKABLICLY THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT FORMALLY REQUESTED EXTRADITION, SINCE A FORMAL REQUES, IMR THE NORMAL MANNER HAS ICREED BEEN PRESENTED. TECHNICALLY, S FCE GOVERNMENTS DO NOT REQUEST EXTRADIM ON BUT COURTS DO, THE FOMINISTER MAY BE CORRECT BUT THE OVERALL IMPLICATION OF HIS REMARK IS NOT.

2. THE AMBASSADOR GAVE EVERY INDICATION THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS MOST SERIOUS ABOUT THIS CASE. HE CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT POMPIDOU HAS WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT BANZER REGARDING THE CASE AND THAT THIS WAS DONE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT WEIGHT OF FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE CASE SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE APPROPRIATE BOLIVIAN COURT ON LEGAL GROUNDS. HE ALSO BELIEVES THE DECISION MAY BE A DIFFICULT ONE, EVEN THOUGH HE IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT ALTMANN IS BARBIE, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CASE.

SECRET

*Handwritten notes:* M2 234, 01-111-1

COORDINATION WITH STATE

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

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3. THE AMBASSADOR SHOWED ME SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING

THE REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION. ONE OF THEM WAS AN ACCOUNT OF AN INTERROGATION OF KLAUS BARBIE IN 1948 BY A FRENCH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, LT J. WHITEMORE. THE DOCUMENT BORE THE SIGNATURE OF WHITEMORE, KLAUS BARBIE AND OTHERS. ONE PARAGRAPH STATED THAT THE INTERROGATION HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE US ZONE OF OCCUPATION IN GERMANY. THE AMBASSADOR SAYS THAT AT THAT TIME BARBIE WAS IN THE EMPLOY OF US FORCES. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT BARBIE WAS FURNISHED DOCUMENTATION FOR A NEW IDENTITY AS KLAUS ALTMANN BY US FORCES. HE THINKS IT WOULD HELP THE CASE VERY MUCH IF THE US COULD FURNISH INFORMATION AS TO HOW AND WHEN THIS TOOK PLACE. O ALEX WONDERS WHETHER THE US COULD NOT FURNISH BARBIE'S FINGERPRINTS.

4. WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO OUR INFORMING GOB THAT US HAS NO INTEREST IN PROTECTING KLAUS BARBIE OR KLAUS ALTMANN. HOWEVER, WE WOULD PREFER TO STAY OUT OF THE CASE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ALTHOUGH WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION EITHER TO FURNISHING THE INFORMATION SUGGESTED BY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS HQY PPSAVAILA

LE. WHILE THE CASE SHOULD BE DECIDED ON LEGAL GROUNDS, IT HAS ATTRACTED SO MUCH ATTENTION INTERNATIONALLY--WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL CONTINUE AND MAYBE INCREASE--THAT IT IS BECOMING A POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR THE SMALL, PROUD AND SENSITIVE BOLIVIA WHICH, JEALOUS OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY, SEENESSHAT IT LOOKS UPON AS PRESSURE. THE BOLIVIANS, ESPECIALLY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, IS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY, VERY SENSITIVE TO THE KIND OF FRENCH PRESSURE WHICH EARLIER RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF REGIS DEBRAY. GP-3. SIRACUSA

BT  
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