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PERU OFFICIALLY REQUESTS EXTRADITION OF ALTMANN

La Paz ANSA in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 1526 GMT 8 Mar 73 P--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] La Paz, 8 Mar--The Government of Peru has officially requested the extradition of Klaus Altmann, accused of illegal trafficking in dollars belonging to the Peruvian Government, according to a message to the Foreign Ministry a few days ago. The Foreign Ministry has confirmed having received the request by the Peruvian Government.

Under legal procedure, the extradition request will be sent to the Supreme Court of Justice with headquarters in Sucre for a ruling.

Bolivian Justice authorities are presently taking steps to establish the true identity of Klaus Altmann, whom the French Government says is Klaus Barbie, former chief of the German Gestapo in France during World War II.

Within the next few hours the office of the Bolivian Foreign Ministry will give major details with regard to the extradition of Altmann requested by the neighboring country.

PERU REQUEST KLAUS ALTMANN'S EXTRADITION FROM BOLIVIA

Buenos Aires ANSA in Spanish 2156 GMT 8 Mar 73 P--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Excerpts] Lima, 8 Mar--There is great expectation in this capital about the request made by the Peruvian Government to the Bolivian Government for extradition of the German, Klaus Altmann Hansen, a nationalized Bolivian, who is charged with trafficking in foreign currency. As is public knowledge, Altmann--who is charged with being Klaus Barbie, the former Gestapo chief of Lyon, France, and of murdering the French resistance chief Jean Moulin, among others--has also been requested by France, a country that has not yet received a favorable reply to their request to the La Paz Government.

The Peruvian Government's extradition request was presented by Lima some time ago, after the Supreme Court declared the request to have the former Nazi answer charges before the national courts for possessing large sums of contraband foreign currency to the detriment of the Peruvian state. Also involved in this case is SS Colonel Fritz Paul Schwend, who was the "brain" of the famous "Operation Bernhard" that, late in World War II, tried to wreck the British economy by flooding the continent with counterfeit pounds sterling. Schwend, as well as Germans Johan Vormak Schneider and Fritz Polz and a Peruvian, Wilfredo Pinillos, have been under arrest in Lima since last April, all involved in the same case.

The contraband currency was uncovered by mere chance by an examining judge, Jose Antonio Santos Chichizola, while investigating the murder of fishing magnate Luis Banhero Rossi. Since there were certain indications that seemed to involve Fritz Paul Schwend in the murder, Judge Santos had the fortified home in which the former SS colonel lives in the outskirts of Lima raided one night and found documents that involved the former Nazi chief in the currency trafficking.

When everything seemed to indicate that the Peruvian Government's extradition demand was going to receive the same fate as the one previously presented by France, it was learned last week that Altmann-Barbie had been arrested in La Paz. A pronouncement from the Bolivian Supreme Court of Justice is now expected on this request, which should be settled this week in Sucre.

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