

[TEMPO 0456393 0301937Z SCS]

09/ /

CONFIDENTIAL

FRP: . . . . 96. 1

STATE

ACTIONS: NONE INFO: ALA/BO-2, ALA/MC/D, ALA/PO, ALA/PO/LA, ALA/SA, ALA/SA/H, ALA/SA/HPB-2, ALA/SA/SW, ALA/SA/SW1, ALA/SER-2, ALA/SWM, ALA/SWR, NIO/WE, ODPH-H, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OGI/EC/EA, OGI/IIC/TG, OOE/EI/PS, OOE/EI/SI, OOE/FR, OOE/WE, PLANFAC-E ( ), RF, SOV/CS/E/P, ZCI/OC, ZIAD/ENO, ZIAD/IC, ZSAG/MEB, ZSAG/PPB, ZSAG/SEB, FILE, EUR/F-2, EUR/RR, LA/CPB-2, LA/OPS, LA/RR, CI/CC, CR/E, D/FBIS-2, IAD/ENO, IAD/IC, ICS/OHC/EU, NICAG/SP, NICAG/WE, NIO/LA, NIO/PE, OEXA/PAD, OGI/ISI/CF, SAG/MEB, SAG/PPB, SAG/SEB-3, (26/W)

83 0456393 SCO

PAGE 001

NC 0456393

TOR: 071909Z FEB 83

OO RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
STU6102  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUFHFR #4737/01 0381836  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 071834Z FEB 83  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2702  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 6025  
INFO RUESLZ/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0389  
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 5966  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 6026  
BT  
C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 04737

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2008

ROME PLEASE PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: SOPN, FR  
SUBJECT: KLAUS BARBIE RETURNED TO FRANCE: QUESTIONS  
- ABOUT ALLEGED US ROLE IN PROTECTING HIM AFTER  
- WORLD WAR TWO

1. (C ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. EXPULSION OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE FROM BOLIVIA AND HIS TRANSFER TO FRENCH CUSTODY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, HAVE TRIGGERED INTENSE PUBLIC INTEREST AND

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

*ARC*

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

83 0456393 SCO

PAGE 002

NC 0456393

TOR: 071909Z FEB 83

EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY FRENCH MEDIA COVERAGE. WHILE MOST REPORTS FOCUS ON ATROCITIES BARBIE COMMITTED WHILE HEAD OF THE GESTAPO IN THE LYON AREA FROM 1943 TO 1944 AND ON THE TREATMENT HE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE IN FRANCE, SOME REPORTS MENTION AN ALLEGED US ROLE IN "PROTECTING" BARBIE FOLLOWING HIS ARREST IN GERMANY AFTER THE WAR. RUMORS THAT BARBIE COLLABORATED WITH THE CIA DURING HIS YEARS IN BOLIVIA HAVE ALSO SURFACED. GIVEN THE EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THIS AFFAIR AND IN VIEW OF VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO PARIS TOMORROW, EMBASSY URGENTLY SEEKS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR VICE PRESIDENT TO USE IN 4:00 P.M. (LOCAL TIME) FEBRUARY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE. IN ORDER TO BRIEF THE VICE PRESIDENT WE NEED A REPLY BY 008 PARIS TIME ON FEB. 8. END SUMMARY

3. ARRIVAL OF KLAUS BARBIE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 5 TOUCHED OFF AN INTENSE FLURRY OF PRESS ACTIVITY AND HAS VIRTUALLY DOMINATED ALL NEWS FOR THE PAST 48 HOURS. BARBIE WAS TRANSFERRED UPON HIS ARRIVAL TO A MILITARY PRISON IN LYON WHERE HE IS BEING HELD UNDER HEAVY GUARD. TWICE CONDEMNED (IN ABSENTIA) BY FRENCH COURTS TO DEATH FOR A VARIETY OF WAR-RELATED CRIMES, BARBIE IS TO BE CHARGED NOW FOR "CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY", NOTABLY THE DEPORTATION OR THE EXECUTION OF THOUSANDS OF FRENCH CIVILIANS IN 1943-44. AMONG HIS VICTIMS WAS FRENCH RESISTANCE LEADER AND POPULAR HERO JEAN MOULIN WHO WAS ARRESTED BY BARBIE IN 1943.

4. WHILE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS DWELT EXTENSIVELY ON HISTORICAL DETAIL AND ON SPECULATION ABOUT THE FORM BARBIE'S TRIAL IS LIKELY TO TAKE, SOME REPORTS HAVE CHARGED THAT THE US EMPLOYED BARBIE AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT FOLLOWING HIS ARREST BY US MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN GERMANY. LE MONDE ARTICLE FEBRUARY 7 REPORTS THAT BARBIE OPERATED AS A US AGENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR TWO IN A VARIETY OF ANTI-COMMUNIST ROLES. AN AP ARTICLE FROM LONDON DATED FEBRUARY 6 QUOTES FORMER FRENCH RESISTANCE LEADER AND PROMINENT JOURNALIST CLAUDE BOURDET SAYING THAT BARBIE WAS A PAID US INFORMANT AND FLED TO SOUTH AMERICA ON THE MONEY HE EARNED. BOTH ARTICLES MENTION THAT US OFFICIALS HINDERED FRENCH ACCESS TO BARBIE

CONFIDENTIAL

*AR*

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

83 0456393 .SCO

PAGE 003

NC 0456393

TUR: 071909Z FEB 83

FROM 1948 TO 1950. BOURDET ALSO SUGGESTS THAT BARBIE AND "HIS PRO-NAZI ORGANIZATION" IN SOUTH AMERICA CONTINUED TO COOPERATE WITH US INTELLIGENCE WHILE BARBIE WAS IN BOLIVIA.

5. THE SAME AP ARTICLE CITES A FORMER US COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, ERHARD DABRINGHAUS, WHO REPORTEDLY TOLD NBC TELEVISION FEBRUARY 5 THAT BARBIE WAS PAID BY THE US FOR INFORMATION ON FORMER NAZIS AND THAT ORDERS WERE GIVEN NOT TO DIVULGE THAT THE US KNEW OF BARBIE'S WHEREABOUTS.

6. GIVEN THE WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN THIS AFFAIR, WE BELIEVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE US POSITION VIS-A-VIS BARBIE COULD ARISE DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PARIS FEBRUARY 8-9. EMBASSY REQUESTS URGENT GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON RESPONSES TO FOLLOWING POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

-- DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE RETURN OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE TO FRANCE?

-- CAN YOU EXPLAIN REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES EMPLOYED BARBIE AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT AFTER WORLD WAR TWO AND HINDERED EFFORTS BY FRENCH OFFICIALS TO LOCATE HIM?

-- CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE CIA OR OTHER US INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUED TO USE BARBIE'S SERVICES WHEN BARBIE WAS IN BOLIVIA?

-- IS THE USG INVESTIGATING THESE ACCUSATIONS?

-- WILL RESULTS OF USG INVESTIGATIONS BE MADE

ROME PLEASE PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: SCRN, FR

SUBJECT: KLAUS BARBIE RETURNED TO FRANCE: QUESTIONS PUBLIC OR COMMUNICATED TO THE GCF? GALBRAITH

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

*Ar*