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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
2000

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1560  
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TEXT  
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SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST FRANCE MEDIA REACTION TO BARBIE REPORT  
1. INITIAL REPORTS IN SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE'S MEDIA ON JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REPORT CONCERNING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN BARBIE AFFAIR HAVE BEEN PHLEGMATIC AND SEEM STUDIOUSLY FACTUAL.  
2. ''SUD-OUEST'' (BORDEAUX - CENTER/RIGHT - CIRC. 435,000) REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT THE ISSUANCE OF THE REPORT AND NOTED THE UNITED STATES HAD EXPRESSED ITS REGRET TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE. TOTAL ARTICLE LENGTH WAS 15 LINES. THE PAPER GAVE LARGER PLAY TO THE ADJOINING STORY INVOLVING ADOLPH HITLER AND A GOAT.  
3. ''LA DEPECHE DU MIDI'' -(TOULOUSE -CENTRIST - CIRC. 243,169) REPORTED IT ALMOST IN THE FORM OF A PRESS COMMUNIQUE, STATING ''THE AMERICAN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ADMITTED THAT AMERICAN OFFICERS HAD AIDED THE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE TO ESCAPE LUWN

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JUSTICE.'' IT ALSO NOTED ''THE EXPRESSION OF THEIR REGRET'' WAS MADE BY A ''JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO ASKED NOT TO BE NAMED.'' TOTAL ARTICLE LENGTH WAS 11 LINES.

4. TF 3, THE NATIONAL NETWORK WHICH DOES REGIONAL BROADCASTS, HAD NO REPORT ON THE FRENCH VERSION OF THE EVENING NEWS SHOWN IN THE BORDEAUX AREA. HOWEVER, IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION (TRANSMITTED FOR SUMMER VISITORS) THE LINE TAKEN WAS TO THE EFFECT '' THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY ADMITTED ITS OFFICERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING **KLAUS BARBIE** FROM FRENCH AUTHORITIES AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND HELPED HIM TO ESCAPE TO SOUTH AMERICA''. THE GERMAN LANGUAGE VERSION HAS RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE REPORT BUT FOCUSED ON THE ''CRITICAL'' INTERNATIONAL REACTION. COVERAGE GIVEN THE BARBIE REPORT ON ANTENNE 2'S (FRENCH LANGUAGE) NATIONAL REPORT APPEARED SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. SITUATION THAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION APPEARING ON FR-3 THE SAME EVENING.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT REGARDING THE REPORT, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY COME IN THE WEEKEND EDITIONS. BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF SPACE GRANTED IT WOULD SEEM THERE IS NO INTEREST IN THE CASE EITHER FROM THE MEDIA OR ITS PUBLIC.LEONNIG

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