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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

DOCUMENT_ID: 48985277
INQNO: DOC1AD 00046792
DOCNO:
PRODUCER:
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE:
DOR: 19851205
TOR: 04590000
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 198512050459
DOCCLASS: U

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HEADER
RR RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
STU6289
RR RUEHC
DE RUFJCX #0536 3381530
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 041545Z DEC 85
FM AMCONSUL LYON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2790
INFO RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2184
RUEBWJB/DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
BT
EZ1:

CONTROLS
UNCLAS LYON 0536
EZ2:

TEXT
STATE FOR EUR/WE, EUR/SOV, ARA/AND, L/LEI
JUSTICE FOR RYAN
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: FR, PGOV, SHUM (BARBIE, KLAUS)
SUBJECT: BARBIE TRIAL - REVVING UP AND FALSE STARTS
REF : LYON 464 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: IN SPITE OF PRESS REPORTS SAYING THE BARBIE TRIAL WILL BEGIN IN FEBRUARY 1986, NO FIRM DATE HAS BEEN SET BY JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. ACTIVITY ON OTHER FRONTS: PRESS, SECURITY, AND TOURISM HAS, HOWEVER, SPEEDED UP. SERIOUS DOUBTS REMAIN, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, AS TO WHETHER THE TRIAL CAN BEGIN BEFORE THE MARCH ELECTIONS WITHOUT RUNNING MAJOR RISKS. END SUMMARY.
2. LE FIGARO NEWSPAPER REPORTED LAST WEEK THAT THE TRIAL OF KLAUS BARBIE WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 3, 1986. A PHONE CALL TO THE LYON JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES REVEALED THAT, ONCE MORE, THE PRESS HAD JUMPED THE GUN AS NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FTR THE START OF THE TRIAL.
3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CITY OF LYON HAS STEPPED UP ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THE BARBIE CASE. THE MAYORS OFFICE HAS EARMARKED 70,000.00 US DOLLARS TO CREATE A PRESS CENTER ACROSS FROM THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE, WHERE THE TRIAL WILL BE HELD. IT WILL ACCOMMODATE THE 650 JOURNALISTS AND 50 TELEVISION NETWORKS THAT HAVE ALREADY REQUESTED ACCREDITATION TO COVER THE PROCEEDINGS. THE CITY'S TOURISM OFFICE IS ALSO PREPARING TO PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO

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THE MEDIA, APART FROM THE TRIAL, TO ENSURE LYON REAPS AS MUCH POSITIVE EXPOSURE AS POSSIBLE DURING THEIR STAY IN THE CITY.
4. SECURITY WILL BE EXTREMELY TIGHT BEFORE AND DURING THE TRIAL. IT IS REPORTED THAT POLICE SURVEILLANCE WILL BE REINFORCED WITHIN A 60 MILE RADIUS OF THE CITY. TWO ADDITIONAL COMPANIES OF NATIONAL POLICE WILL AUGMENT THE LYON POLICE FORCE, AND FRENCH ANTI-TERRORIST SQUADS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ON THE SCENE AS WELL. BARBIE WILL BE TRANSPORTED BETWEEN THE COURT AND ST. PAULS PRISON IN AN ARMORED CONVOY. RECENTLY, LYON TRAFFIC WAS TIED-UP WHEN TEST-RUNS WERE CARRIED OUT TRYING AND TIMING VARIOUS ROUTES BETWEEN THE TWO FACILITIES. IN THE COURT ITSELF, METAL DETECTORS WILL BE USED, AND MULTIPLE IDENTITY CHECKS WILL BE OBLIGATORY. BARBIE WILL BE HELD IN A BULLET-PROOF ENCLOSURE, AS A HEAVY BULLET-PROOF VEST WOULD TIRE THE 75 YEAR OLD PRISONER DURING THE 3-6 WEEKS THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO LAST.

5. EARLY LAST MONTH, BARBIE'S LAWYER, JACQUES VERGES, SAID BARBIE'S LIFE WAS IN DANGER AS HE HAS NOT BEEN CARED FOR PROPERLY SINCE HIS CONFINEMENT IN FRENCH PRISON. THE PRISON DIRECTOR RESPONDED, SAYING THAT BARBIE IS BEING CARED FOR BY COMPETENT PERSONNEL, AND IS EXAMINED SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK BY TWO DOCTORS. JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES CONFIRM BARBIE IS IN NORMAL HEALTH.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, SECURITY AND TOURISM OFFICIALS ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS IN ANTICIPATION OF A STARTING DATE EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR, THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN MARCH, 1986 MIGHT WELL FORCE THE OPENING OF THE TRIAL BACK INTO APRIL OR MAY. BARBIE IS IN FRENCH CUSTODY, AND GOING NOWHERE. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT HE AND EVEN MORE, HIS LAWYER, WOULD LOSE NOTHING BY DIRTYING A FEW REPUTATIONS DURING THE TRIAL, AND LOOK FORWARD TO A MUD-FLINGING SPREE. WHETHER THE MUD STICKS OR NOT, AND WHETHER BARBIE'S POTENTIAL SLANDERS AND STORIES COULD BE CONFIRMED OR NOT, FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN BY SPEEDING UP THE START OF THE TRIAL AT THIS POINT. APART FROM DEFUSING MUTED PRESS CRITICISM THAT THEY ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON GETTING STARTED, THEY RISK MORE IN PERMITTING THE TRIAL TO GET UNDERWAY BEFORE THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER. END COMMENT.

VALERGA

END OF MESSAGE

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