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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: FR, PGOV, SHUM (BARBIE, KLAUS)
SUBJECT: BARBIE TRIAL - AND MAYBE NEXT SPRING??

REFS: LYON 156 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: THE LYON JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS STARTED TO PUBLICIZE THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY BARBIE TO ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE FOR THE START OF HIS LONG AWAITED TRIAL. WHILE BARBIE'S LAWYER DOUBTS THE TRIAL WILL TAKE PLACE, OTHER LAWYERS WORKING ON THE CASE ARE NOW CONVINCED THE TRIAL WILL BEGIN IN EARLY SPRING OF NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH THE RECENT PAPAL VISIT BEHIND THE LYONNAIS, THINGS HAVE ONCE AGAIN STARTED TO STIR CONCERNING THE TRIAL OF KLAUS BARBIE. LAST WEEK BARBIE'S LAWYER, JACQUES VERGES, WHO, OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, HAS TAKEN ON SUCH NOTABLE CLIENTS AS ANDRE OLIVIER (ACTION DIRECT) AND GEORGES ABDALLAH (FARL), WAS QUOTED IN THE LYON PRESS AS SAYING HE DOUBTED BARBIE'S CASE WOULD EVER COME TO TRIAL.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE HAS BEEN AN EFFORT BY THE JEWISH

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COMMUNITY HERE IN LYON TO PUBLICIZE THE CRIMES FOR WHICH BARBIE WILL BE TRIED. A NEW LODGE OF BNAI BRITH HAS BEEN NAMED ENFANTS DIZIEU AFTER THE 44 JEWISH CHILDREN DEPORTED TO THE DEATH CAMPS IN AUGUST 1944 UNDER BARBIE'S ORDERS. TO INAUGURATE THE NEW LODGE, THE NOTED NAZI HUNTER, SERGE KLARSFELD, WAS INVITED TO SPEAK BEFORE A LARGE CROWD OF OVER 500 PEOPLE LAST SUNDAY. KLARSFELD SAID HE ANTICIPATES THE BARBIE TRIAL WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH 1987, NOW THAT THE PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS HAVE ALMOST BEEN FINISHED.

4. THE DAY BEFORE THE KLARSFELD APPEARANCE AT BNAI BRITH, AT A PRIVATE DINNER WITH ANOTHER LAWYER WORKING ON THE BARBIE CASE, IT WAS CONFIRMED ALL LOOKED GOOD FOR A SPRING STARTING DATE. FINALLY, THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT JUDICIAL MEETINGS LATE LAST WEEK WERE POINTING TOWARDS A SIMILAR DATE.

5. COMMENT: WHAT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR IS THAT THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES ARE RUNNING OUT OF REASONS TO DELAY THE START OF THE BARBIE TRIAL. THE EXCUSES USED SO FAR HAVE RANGED FROM LAST SPRINGS NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THEN THE PAPAL VISIT, FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER REVIEW OF THE FACTS OF THE CASE. THE ONLY POSSIBLE AND CREDIBLE DELAY IN BRINGING BARBIE TO THE BAR WOULD BE A POP PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WHICH, AT THIS TIME, LOOKS UNLIKELY. AS BEFORE, THE LYON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS INTERESTED IN HAVING THE TRIAL TAKE PLACE, AS KLARSFELD SAID, FOR HISTORY. BUT, FOR THE TIME BEING, AS THE CHIEF RABBI OF LYON SAID MANY MONTHS AGO, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE MAN IS BEHIND BARS. END COMMENT.
VALERGA

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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