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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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SUBJECT: ICRC PRESS RELEASE ON BARBIE RECORD

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

1. THE ICRC ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE ON MAY 7.

QUOTE.

2. THE **KLAUS BARBIE** AFFAIR: THE ICRC SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

3. GENEVA (ICRC) - ERRONEOUS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED CONCERNING THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) IN THE **KLAUS BARBIE** AFFAIR, AND THE ICRC WOULD LIKE TO RECALL THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

4. THE ICRC DELEGATION IN GENOA (ITALY) GAVE BARBIE A TRAVEL DOCUMENT UNDER THE NAME KLAUS ALTMANN: THIS ASSUMED NAME APPEARED ON TEMPORARY TRAVEL PAPERS ISSUED BY THE ALLIED FORCES HIGH COMMISSION IN MUNICH. THE ALLIED PASS DESCRIBED 'KLAUS ALTMANN' AS A MECHANIC FROM

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KRONSTADT (GERMANY).

5. THE ICRC WOULD NEVER HAVE GIVEN A TRAVEL DOCUMENT TO KLAUS BARBIE IF HIS TRUE IDENTITY HAD BEEN KNOWN.

6. SINCE 1945, THE ICRC HAS ISSUED SOME 300,000 TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ENABLING 500,000 DISPLACED OR STATELESS PEOPLE, OFTEN WHOLE FAMILIES, TO TRAVEL TO COUNTRIES WILLING TO RECEIVE THEM AS REFUGEES. DURING THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE PEOPLE WERE SURVIVORS OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND REFUGEES FROM EASTERN EUROPE.

7. THE ICRC TRAVEL DOCUMENT IS NEVER REGARDED AS AN IDENTITY CARD. IT IS ISSUED UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS: THAT APPLICANTS HOLD NO VALID PASSPORT BUT ARE IN POSSESSION OF A VALID VISA FOR THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, AS WELL AS AN AUTHORIZATION OF SAFE-CONDUCT FROM THE COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE. ICRC TRAVEL PAPERS BECOME INVALID AS SOON AS RECIPIENTS ENTER THE COUNTRY WILLING TO RECEIVE THEM.

8. THE ICRC'S DELEGATION IN GENOA ISSUED 2,259 TRAVEL DOCUMENTS IN 1951, THE YEAR 'KLAUS ALTMANN' SUCCESSFULLY CONCEALED HIMSELF AMONG THE REFUGEES. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ICRC DELEGATES TO VERIFY THE STATEMENTS OF THOSE APPLYING FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. THE ICRC BELIEVES THAT CERTAIN RISKS HAD TO BE ACCEPTED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE VAST MAJORITY. END QUOTE. PETRONE

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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