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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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JUSTICE FOR RYAN

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: FR, PGOV, SHUM (BARBIE, KLAUS)
SUBJECT: KLAUS BARBIE TRIAL - THE VERDICT IN LYON

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

REF: A) LYON 0236 B) LYON 0305

1. THE JURY IN THE TRIAL OF KLAUS BARBIE RETURNED ITS VERDICT SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT ON THE FOURTH OF JULY. THAT WAS PRECISELY THE DATE PREDICTED AT THE START OF THE EIGHT WEEK TRIAL, AND THE VERDICT ITSELF CAME AS NO SURPRISE. AFTER SOME SIX HOURS OF DELIBERATION, THE JURY ANSWERED 340 QUESTIONS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE IN FINDING BARBIE GUILTY OF ALL CHARGES, AND ONE IN THE NEGATIVE, FINDING NO MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES IN HIS FAVOR. HE WAS SENTENCED TO THE MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

2. THE FINAL DAYS OF THE TRIAL WERE OCCUPIED BY THE DEFENSE SUMMATION. BARBIE'S TWO RECENTLY ACQUIRED COUNSEL OF THIRD WORLD ORIGIN (SEE REFTEL B) PRESENTED ALLEGATIONS OF FRENCH COLONIAL ABUSES. HIS LEAD ATTORNEY, JACQUES VERGES, TOOK NINE HOURS TO

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PRESENT HIS THEORY OF THE CASE. AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, MUCH OF IT WAS A RELATIVELY STANDARD CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTACK ON THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE. SERGE KLARSFELD, ATTORNEY FOR THE SOME OF THE CIVIL PARTIES, BOYCOTTED THIS STAGE OF THE TRIAL IN IMITATION OF BARBIE'S REFUSAL TO ATTEND. HIS PROFESSIONALISM WAS REPORTEDLY QUESTIONED BY OTHER COUNSEL FOR THE CIVIL PARTIES.

3. STRONG EMOTIONS WERE ALSO EVIDENT OUTSIDE THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE VERDICT. DESPITE THE LATENESS OF THE HOUR, A CROWD WAS PRESENT. WHEN VERGES LEFT THE COURT, HE WAS JOSTLED BY SOME SPECTATORS AND HAD TO BE ESCORTED AWAY BY POLICE VIA ANOTHER ROUTE. IT WAS THE FIRST REPORTED DISPLAY OF SUCH HOSTILITY DURING THE TRIAL.

4. VERGES IMMEDIATELY FILED NOTICE OF APPEAL, AS REQUIRED TO PRESERVE BARBIE'S APPEAL RIGHTS. IT WILL BE MONTHS, HOWEVER, BEFORE THE TRIAL TRANSCRIPT CAN EVEN BE PREPARED, SO NO SUBSTANTIVE APPELLATE PROCEEDINGS ARE FORESEEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ADDITIONAL CHARGES AGAINST BARBIE HAVE BEEN FILED BY CIVIL PARTIES REPRESENTING RESISTANCE MEMBERS ARRESTED AND TORTURED ALONG WITH RESISTANCE LEADER JEAN MOULIN, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL AT THIS POINT WHEN OR IF THESE CHARGES WILL BE TRIED.

5. LITTLE REMAINS TO BE SAID ABOUT A TRIAL THAT TURNED OUT TO BE MORE METHODOICAL THAN INCENDIARY. IN THAT SENSE IT REFLECTS THE RESERVED, NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDE CUSTOMARILY ATTRIBUTED TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY WHERE THE TRIAL, AND BARBIE'S CRIMES, OCCURRED. A FINAL NOTE ON THE BARBIE-USG CONNECTION BEARS MENTION. THE IRONY OF A FOURTH OF JULY VERDICT APPARENTLY OCCURRED TO NO ONE OUTSIDE THE POST. AT TEN A.M. ON THE FOURTH, HOURS AFTER THE VERDICT, THE TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES ORGANIZED BY THE LOCAL FRENCH AUTHORITIES SINCE 1947 BEGAN IN FRONT OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL. THEY FEATURED AN HONOR GUARD OF FRENCH TROOPS (DELIVERED BY THE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER YORKTOWN), A MILITARY BAND PLAYING THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND THE MARINE CORPS HYMN, TWO GENDARMES HOISTING THE STARS AND STRIPES UP THE CONSULATES FLAGPOLE, AND AN ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERS INCLUDING FORMER MEMBERS OF THE RESISTANCE AND THE PROSECUTOR OF THE BARBIE CASE, PIERRE TRUCHE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY WREATHLAYING CEREMONIES AT TWO WAR MEMORIALS AND A RECEPTION AT THE CITY HALL HOSTED BY THE MAYOR FOR ALL AMERICANS IN LYON. THIS RECONFIRMATION OF LONGSTANDING FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THE U.S. BY THE LYONNIS EFFECTIVELY PUT TO REST THE NOTION THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING IN THE **KLAUS BARBIE** CASE THAT TOUCHED IT.
VALERGA

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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