Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/28 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404200019-3

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE 1-A

WASHINGTON TIMES
26 March 1985

Times' reward seeks scourge of Josef Mengele

The Washington Times will pay a $1 million reward for evidence leading to the apprehension, trial and conviction of Nazi war criminal Dr. Josef Mengele, Editor-in-Chief Arnaud de Borchgrave announced today.

"Apprehension and conviction of Mengele is a first priority for any person or institution concerned about human rights yesterday, today or tomorrow," said Mr. de Borchgrave, who called Mengele "a monster whose successful escape from justice must be ended."

Known and feared as the "Angel of Death" because of the experiments he performed on prisoners at the Auschwitz concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II, Mengele is the most notorious Nazi war criminal still at large.

Though he has been pursued since the end of World War II, Mengele recently returned to the world spotlight when a former U.S. Army counter-intelligence officer said he believed that American intelligence services had arrested, questioned and released Mengele in Austria in 1947.

The reward, guaranteed by an insurance policy "to insure there is no question," Mr. de Borchgrave said, will be offered for one year from the date this information is first published in The Washington Times. The paper has set the following conditions for the reward to be paid:

- To convey information regarding Mengele, one should address a letter to the Editor-in-Chief at The Washington Times, 3600 New York Ave., NE, Washington, D.C., 20002.
- Mengele need not be apprehended during the period the reward is offered, but the information leading to his arrest must be submitted to the paper within a year.
- The arrest can occur anywhere in the world by any recognized government or civic authority. The trial and conviction also can occur anywhere in the world. But Mengele must be apprehended, tried and convicted for the crimes he committed at Auschwitz, and the conviction must carry a sentence under the country of trial's law appropriate for mass murder.
- The reward will be paid after the conviction directly to the person supplying the information.

Mr. de Borchgrave stressed that the reward was not a publicity stunt and that the paper was making the offer because of its belief in and strong support of human rights.

"When you have victims of this barbarian still living and graphically testifying of the horrors Mengele did, it is no publicity stunt," he said. "If Dr. Josef Mengele is alive and allowed to go unpunished, his life will be proof that our world cannot forcefully pursue and punish violations of human rights.... Josef Mengele must not escape his obscene crime."

The Washington Times chose to make the offer rather than spend the money to mount its own manhunt because it believes "providing a financial incentive they cannnot resist" to someone who knows Mengele's whereabouts would prove more effective, Mr. de Borchgrave said. He noted that Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., recently proposed a similar approach, using government funds, and that Sen. Alfonse d'Amato, R-N.Y., and others recently have generated a concern that "makes us believe that evidence will be aggressively pursued by the United States government at this time."

Known for his good looks and elegant manners, Mengele is accused of ordering the deaths of 400,000 people, half of whom were children, at Auschwitz. Survivors say he frequently whistled operas while deciding the fate of his prisoners.

A physician and former major in the Nazi secret service, Mengele headed a genetic investigation team which operated on twins, children and midgets in the Nazi eugenic program in search of methods to produce perfect Aryan specimens with blond hair and blue eyes.

Though many believe Mengele is in Paraguay or elsewhere in South America, information regarding his whereabouts is vague and incomplete. He is known to have fled Europe for Paraguay in 1959 and become a naturalized citizen. He reportedly dropped out of sight in 1962, however, and his Paraguayan citizenship was revoked in 1979 under intense international pressure.

A West German magazine reported over the weekend that Chancellor Helmut Kohl believes Mengele is still in Paraguay, despite claims by that South American government that it knows nothing about the former Nazi's whereabouts. The Paraguayan government has been controlled for the last 30 years by the son of a Bavarian immigrant.

Sources said Mr. Kohl would press Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner for clarification when Mr. Stroessner visits West Germany in July.

The Times "may very well" offer similar rewards for the apprehension, trial and conviction of other notorious human rights violators, Mr. de Borchgrave said. But for now, he hopes to focus international attention on the search for Mengele.

"Mengele is such a heinous case, particularly if he is allowed to go unpunished, that we believe he, above all others, at this time must not be allowed to escape justice," he said.

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/28 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000404200019-3