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ROUTINE

PRECEDENCE

CN 307

LINEN
DISTRIBUTION

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File

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

DISTRIBUTION	
ACTION:	
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FIGHTING GROUP AGAINST INHUMANITY SPONSORED PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 20 IN BERLIN FOR CHARLES NOBLE, FICENINE, NATURALIZED AMERICAN CITIZEN RELEASED FROM EAST GERMAN PRISON WALDHEIM JULY 4, 1952. ACCORDING TO STORY RELATED BY NOBLE AND CONFIRMED IN MAIN ELEMENTS BY US CONSULATE BERLIN, SUBJECT RETURNED TO GERMANY IN 1938 TO OPEN CAMERA FACTORY UNDER NAZIS WAS PROMISED REPEATEDLY THAT HE WOULD BE REPATRIATED IN EXCHANGE OF NATIONALS, BUT EFFORTS TO LEAVE GERMANY AND RETURN TO US PROVED UNAVAILING. DURING WAR, NOBLE ADMITTED, HE PRODUCED OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS FOR NAZIS. AFTER ALLIED VICTORY HE WORKED FOR BRIEF PERIOD MAKING CAMERAS UNDER SOVIET ORDER AND RECEIVED SOME AID FROM SOVIET OFFICIALS IN PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS. HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE ARRESTED BY SOVIETS FOR ALLEGED "ILLEGAL TRAVEL" AND OTHER OFFENSES IN JULY, 1945, BUT WERE NEVER FORMALLY CHARGED AND TRIED UNTIL JUNE, 1952, WHEN COURT MEETING IN WALDHEIM PRISON FOUND NOBLE GUILTY (JUNE 11) OF AIDING AND ABETTING NAZI REGIME AND ORIGINALLY-CHARGED ILLEGAL TRAVEL, SENTENCED HIM TO 7 YEARS IMPRISONMENT, PERIOD ALREADY SERVED. PRISON RELEASE BECAME EFFECTIVE LESS THAN ONE MONTH LATER.

BETWEEN TIME OF ARREST AND RELEASE NOBLE SAID HE SPENT 14 MONTHS IN JAIL IN DRESDEN; SEVERAL WEEKS IN DRESDEN CELL OPERATED BY MVD; 25 MONTHS IN PRISON-CAMP AT MEUHLBERG, NEAR RIESA; 16 MONTHS IN BUCHENWALD PRISON CAMP, AND 28 MONTHS AT WALDHEIM. ONE OF TWO SONS AND WIFE WERE RELEASED IN 1946 WHILE SECOND SON IS STILL IN HANDS OF COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES, HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FATHER SINCE 1950 WHEN NOBLE WAS MOVED TO WALDHEIM. SUBJECT'S HEALTH IS GOOD THOUGH HE SUFFERS OCCASIONALLY FROM RHEUMATISM CONTRACTED IN PRISON. NOBLE STATED CASE ILLUSTRATES ARBITRARY NATURE OF EASTERN JUSTICE, DOUBLE-DEALING OF COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES WHO PROMISED HIM REPEATEDLY THEY WOULD INVESTIGATE CASE AND BRING ABOUT RELEASE. DURING 7 YEAR CONFINEMENT HE WAS CROSS-EXAMINED WITHOUT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, WAS CHARGED WITH BEING CAPITALIST AND WITH DEALING WITH CAPITALISTS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE NOBLE PRODUCED

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ADVERTISEMENT FROM DETROIT FREE PRESS" FOR PRAKTIKA FY CAMERAS,
WHICH HE SAID ARE BEING PRODUCED IN HIS FACTORY AT SOVIET ORDER FOR
SALE IN US, OTHER COUNTRIES.

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