

A. EICHMANN

AIR POUCH
527

SECRET

NFVA 1838

RYBAT

14 December 1960

TO: []
FROM: []
SUBJ: Adolf EICHMANN Case
REF: [NFVA] 1602, [NFVA] 1648

1. On 13 December 1960 [] asked [] about the confession of EICHMANN appearing in a current issue of LIFE magazine. [] replied that the confession had been made by EICHMANN a few years ago, and that [] had first learned of it from EICHMANN several days after the kidnapping. EICHMANN had written the first 100 pages in long hand, and had put the rest on tapes, for a Dutchman who had deserted the Dutch army and joined the Nazis when Holland was overrun. This man, whose name [] mentioned but [] does not recall, was tried and sentenced to death by the Dutch government. He is the Argentine correspondent of STERN, a German picture magazine. It was he who sold the confession to LIFE, with the agreement that LIFE would not publish it until the indictment was entered against EICHMANN, or the actual trial commenced. [] did not know why it was published prematurely. He noted that the confession made Israel's task much less difficult, and the task of the defense lawyer much harder.

2. [] commented that EICHMANN had written the confession at a time when he feared that the Israelis would either murder him, or would kidnap him and force a confession out of him. He wanted the real story to be available to offset any extorted confession. He also wanted to insure that his wife would have some money, rightly believing that the confession would be valuable.

3. [] told [] that in the planning of the operation, [] had decided that EICHMANN's wife would reason much as EICHMANN himself actually had - that the Israelis would either murder her husband; or kidnap him, extort a confession from him, and then murder him. To Mrs. EICHMANN, then, her husband's disappearance would mean either that he was dead, or that he had fled from his pursuers. In either case, she would accomplish nothing by going to the police, and might well hamper his flight, as well as identifying her children and herself as EICHMANN's wife.

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* identified in press as Wilhelm SASSEN.

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Mrs. EICHMANN may well have reasoned along these lines. In any case, she did not go to the police, and [] was able to hold EICHMANN in Buenos Aires for a considerable period.

4. During the discussion, [] told [] for his information only - HQS please respect this stipulation - that Israel would pay the balance of his fees beyond what the EICHMANN family could pay, rather than have EICHMANN inadequately defended, or defended by a court-appointed, Israeli lawyer.

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