

02/24/

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ACTION: NONE INFO: ODPS-S, RF, FILE, CI-3, CR/WH, D/FBIS-2, EPS/EG-2, EUR-3, FR, IAD/CAS-3, IAD/IC, LA-3, NIO/LA, NIO/WE, OCO/WE, OGCR/ER-2, ORPA/II-2, ORPA/LAD, ORPA/LAY, ORPA/RO-2, ORPA/SA-3, ORPA/WEN-2, PCS/INT, (38/W)

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6784
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 153
RUEHDT/USUN NEW YORK 366
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3620

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E.O. 12065: GDS 8/6/85 (DION, JERROLD MARK) OR-M
TAGS: PGOV, PA
SUBJECT: (C) NAZI WAR CRIMINAL DR. JOSEF MENGELE TO LOSE CITIZENSHIP

REF: ASUNCION 3540

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR ENGELS TOLD CHARGE AT BOLIVIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION THAT INTERIOR MINISTER MONTANARO HAS PREPARED FORMAL LEGAL REQUEST TO PARAGUAYAN SUPREME COURT ASKING THAT CITIZENSHIP OF JOSEF MENGELE BE REVOKED. AMBASSADOR ENGELS WAS SHOWN TEXT OF DOCUMENT BY UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR BESTARD TODAY. THIS IS AT LEAST PARTIAL RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST (SEE REFTEL) THAT PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO CANCEL MENGELE'S CITIZENSHIP RATHER THAN MERELY STATE THAT BECAUSE OF HIS ABSENCE FROM THIS COUNTRY MENGELE'S CITIZENSHIP HAD LAPSED AUTOMATICALLY.

3. AMBASSADOR ENGELS SAID HE NOW INTENDED TO QUERY BONN WHETHER FRG WOULD AUTHORIZE NEW APPROACH TO GOP REQUESTING EXTRADITION EITHER AS REITERATION OF 1967 DEMARCHE OR A NEW APPROACH ON BASIS OF MENGELE'S LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP. AMBASSADOR ENGELS DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT MENGELE IS IN PARAGUAY, IF ONLY DUE TO

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

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RECENT FUROR WHICH VERY LIKELY WOULD CAUSE HIM TO SLIP ACROSS THE BORDER INTO SOME NEIGHBORING COUNTRY UNTIL CURRENT INTEREST DIES DOWN, BUT HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO EXERT PRESSURE ON GOP. FRG AMBASSADOR ASKED ALL FOREGOING BE HELD CLOSELY UNTIL GOP TAKES ACTION AGAINST MENGELE.

4. AMBASSADOR ENGELS ALSO SAID HE HAD SEEN PRESIDENT STROESSNER FIRDAY ON ANOTHER QUESTION AND THAT IN RAMBLING 20-MINUTE MONOLOGUE STROESSNER RAISED MENGELE ISSUE SAYING HE WAS NO LONGER IN PARAGUAY AND THAT INTERNATIONAL SCANDAL HAD BEEN RAISED BY COMMUNIST CONSPRIACY OUT TO BLACKEN REPUTATION OF PARAGUAY. MENGELE CAME UP IN LONG LITANY OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST COMMUNIST PLOTTING. ENGELS SAID HE DID NOT ATTEMPT TO CONTRADICT STROESSNER'S MONOLOGUE TO ASK SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT MENGELE.

5. COLORADO PARTY NEWSPAPER PATRIA PUBLISHED EDITORIAL AUGUST 5 CLAIMING MENGELE WAS OBSCURE NAZI WHO HAD NOT BEEN SOUGHT BY ANYONE BETWEEN 1945 AND 1967 AND WAS JSUT ANOTHER BENEFICIARY OF PARAGUAY'S TRADITIONAL HISPITALITY IN THE FORM OF CITIZENSHIP AND DOCUMENTATION. FULL TEXT OF PATRIA EDITORIAL BEING RELAYED BY FBIS.
DION

END OF MESSAGE

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