

CONFIDENTIAL

LA/APUB
INCOMING

FRP: . . 3,

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: ALA/PA-2, ALA/PO/LA, ALA/SA/R, ALA/SA/RPO, ALA/SA/SE, ALA/SEM, DD/NESA, NESA/AI/L-2, NESA/SCIG, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OGI/GD/AWH, OGI/IIC/PI, OGI/TAB1, OGI/TAB2, OPCTR/EALA, OPCTR/NESA, RF, FILE, LA/APUB-2, NE/ISR-2, CR/W, EPO/LA, ICS/HC/LA, ICS/HC/ME, NCPM, NIO/LA, NIO/NE, OIA/TWALA, PPS/AG, PPS/PO, PPS/SEO-3, QA/STATE, (19/W)

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PAGE 001
TOR: 011457Z NOV 84

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R 011053Z NOV 84
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 56
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 161
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 7038

*Mike
F 41*

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PA
SUBJECT: (U) ASSOCIATED PRESS ARTICLE ON JOSEF MENGELE

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. A RECENT UNDATED ASSOCIATED PRESS ARTICLE, DATED IN JERUSALEM, WAS BROUGHT TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION. THE STORY REPORTS ALLEGATIONS BY TUVIA FRIEDMAN, SAID TO BE THE HEAD OF THE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATION OF NAZI CRIMINALS IN HAIFA, THAT THE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL JOSEF MENGELE IS LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE AWARE THAT THIS ALLEGATION, WHICH RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PLAY IN THE PARAGUAYAN PRESS, HAS BEEN ROUNDLY DENIED.

3. HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE ASPECT OF THE ARTICLE WORTH PURSUING FURTHER. ACCORDING TO THE AP STORY, A NEWSPAPER CALLED "AL HAMISHAR" RECENTLY PUBLISHED A PICTURE TAKEN IN 1979 OF A MAN IT CLAIMED WAS MENGELE BOARDING A FLIGHT IN ASUNCION BOUND FOR MIAMI. THE PHOTO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOCOPY OF AN EXIT REGISTRATION FORM FILLED OUT IN THE NAME OF MENGELE SHOWING THAT HE TOOK BRANIFF AIRLINES FLIGHT 774 FROM ASUNCION TO MIAMI ON AUGUST 28, 1979. THE "AL HAMISHMAR" CORRESPONDENT, ONE HAIM MARGALIT, IS QUOTED IN THE AP STORY AS SAYING THAT THE PHOTO AND DOCUMENT WERE PROVIDED BY "A MAN WHO USED THE PSEUDONYM 'DR. RAUL' AND DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A PHYSICIAN LIVING IN PARAGUAY."

4. THERE WAS, IN FACT, AN INCIDENT IN 1979 IN WHICH BRANIFF AIRLINES TIPPED THIS EMBASSY OFF TO THE FACT THAT A RESERVATION HAD BEEN MADE ON ITS AUGUST 28 FLIGHT TO MIAMI FOR ONE DR. JOSEF MENGELE. THE RESERVATION WAS MADE BY AN UNKNOWN PARTY THROUGH THE DALLAS OFFICE OF BRANIFF. IN THE EVENT, NO ONE EVER SHOWED UP TO USE THE RESERVATION IN MENGELE'S NAME, PERHAPS BECAUSE WORD OF THE MATTER LEAKED OUT TO THE PRESS, OR MORE LIELY BECAUSE THE WHOLE THING WAS A HOAX.

5. IN OUR ROLE AS A REPOSITORY FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MENGELE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY TEL AVIV COULD POUCH A COPY OF THE "AL HAMISHMAR" ARTICLE TO THIS EMBASSY'S POLITICAL SECTION. CLEARLY, BOTH THE "MENGELE" PHOTO AND THE EXIT FORM ARE HOAXES. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE ABOUT THAT NEWSPAPER, THE REPORTER HAIM MARGALIT, AND HIS ALLEGED PARAGUAYAN CONTACT "DR. RAUL."

State
COORDINATION WITH

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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84 5595586 SCR

PAGE 002
TOR: 011457Z NOV 84

NC 5595586

6. THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE TWO MOTIVES BEHIND THIS RECENT
FLURRY OF PUBLICITY CONCERNING MENGELE'S WHEREABOUTS. FIRST,
TO KEEP HIS NAME BEFORE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. AND SECOND,
TO SUGGEST THAT HE MAY BE SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN IN PARAGUAY.
DAVIS
END OF MESSAGE

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