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MEMORANDUM TO THE FILES

December 14, 1984

FROM: Ambassador Davis *ad*

In the course of a conversation on December 11, Conrado Pappalardo, the Director of State Ceremony for the Paraguayan Government, told the Ambassador what he knew about Josef Mengele. According to Pappalardo, Mengele did not actually come to live in Paraguay until after he had received his Paraguayan citizenship in 1959. When he lived in Paraguay in the early 1960s, Mengele was in business with a man by the name of Werner and also with a Paraguayan military officer. They ran the Ferreteria Alemana (a large hardware store in Asunción). That concern also represented the Mengele company in Germany, owned by Mengele's family, which sells agricultural machinery. During that period, Mengele made several visits to Germany to visit his brother in Emsburg.

According to Pappalardo, from 1959 to 1965 Mengele lived with the Krugg family in Costa Nu, near Encarnacion. He would stay with them weekdays from Monday to Thursday, and would drive to Asunción that day, spending the remainder of the week in the capital before returning to Costa Nu over the weekend. Pappalardo commented that Mengele had a number of women companions in those years but that he never married.

Pappalardo said that Mengele moved to Santa Katarina in Brazil in 1965, when various "Nazi hunters" were on his trail. During his years there, he would make frequent trips to Portugal. Some years later he moved to Portugal, from where he would send Christmas cards to friends in Paraguay. Around 1980 the cards stopped coming. Many of his friends took this to mean that Mengele had died, since he was by then in his late 60s or early 70s. According to Pappalardo, Mengele always used his own name.

DIST: AMB  
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POL  
ARA/SC  
INR/B  
BIOs: Mengele; Pappalardo

DRAFTED: POL: JPL *Edward*: bcm

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