

VI. 31 May 85

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

H 1

PAPER SAYS MENGELE'S EXTRADITION GRANTED

PY241600 Paris AFP in Spanish 1231 GMT 24 May 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 May (AFP) -- Quoting highly reliable sources, the morning newspaper TIEMPO ARGENTINO today published an exclusive report saying that the Paraguayan Government has reportedly agreed to grant the extradition of Nazi war criminal Joseph Mengele, after receiving guarantees that he will receive a fair trial. The newspaper reports that President Alfredo Stroessner is said to have made the decision after long and arduous negotiations with FRG officials over the past 6 months. The butcher of Auschwitz may be handed over soon, following a decision Stroessner made during the first week of May after some 10 meetings with FRG officials who traveled to Paraguay for that specific mission.

Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld has been in Paraguay for over 10 days searching for the world's most wanted criminal. A group of FRG journalists has also been in the country for several days now, interviewing people and filming. Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center today had a half-page paid advertisement in the liberal morning paper LA NACION under the title: Joseph Mengele is Wanted for His Crimes Against Humanity. This is the first time an advertisement of this kind has been published in Argentina. It offers a \$2,375,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and extradition of Mengele and explains that all information will be considered confidential. Many Nazi hunters say that Mengele lived in or frequently visited Argentina in the past.

Report Denied

PY252046 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 25 May 85 p 11

[Text] Official sources yesterday categorically denied a report published by an Argentine daily stating that the Paraguay Government had allegedly agreed to extradite Joseph Mengele "after receiving guarantees that he will receive a fair trial." The Buenos Aires daily also stated that the president of the Republic had held negotiations with FRG authorities in this regard.

In response to inquiries made by this newspaper, Anibal Fernandez, information secretary of the presidency of the Republic, emphatically denied the information published by TIEMPO ARGENTINO. Under Secretary Fernandez said that he considered "the denigrating campaign launched by certain foreign sectors, which use the media to disseminate false information on Paraguay, offensive to the country."

Fernandez stated that the head of state has never held any negotiations in this regard, since, he said, "the president fully respects the state's authority. Mengele's extradition was and continues to be the exclusive prerogative of the judicial authorities, who have already said their final word. Based on the measures adopted by the pertinent authorities, the judicial branch has already ordered Mengele's arrest on several occasions, thus clearly showing that neither the Paraguayan people nor the government have anything to conceal."

Fernandez said that "there is concrete evidence that the entire campaign is being financed from abroad" and it is quite obvious why the campaign is being intensified at this time."

Fernandez also said that as another sign that Paraguay has nothing to conceal, full cooperation and assistance has been granted to the foreign journalists, of which there are about 50 in our country, who have come to "depict an objective image of our country, which is quite praiseworthy." However, Fernandez noted, it is funny that as soon as you start talking to them, they bring up the subject of Mengele.

Mengele

The third section is the one that empowers judges not to open criminal investigations of these crimes of rebellion, sedition, and rioting. This last part covers most of those who are likely to benefit or stand to benefit from this law. This part would cover the rebels who are prepared to join our country's political process, suspend their guerrilla-type activities, and participate instead in a peaceful and civilized manner in the nation's democratic process. These may be many. These may be several thousand Colombians. [end recording]

Parejo Gonzalez said he did not know if any persons had already applied for amnesty even though President Belisario Betancur has not yet signed the bill into law.

FARC FACTION OPERATIONS BASE DISCOVERED

PA302150 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 May 85 pp 1, 3

[Article by Eduardo Carillo]

[Excerpt] State security organizations have occupied an operations base of the self-styled Ricardo Franco Front, a dissident faction of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and seized weapons exclusively used by the Armed Forces and the police, guerrilla propaganda, and other items.

Authorized spokesmen for the Defense Ministry and the National Police General Directorate disclosed that after long investigations, they discovered the operations base in Dosquebradas, Risaralda. The security organizations reported that the dissident leftist guerrilla group's command operated in a house in downtown Dosquebradas.

M-1 and M-2 carbines, shotguns, cartridge clips, booby traps, dynamite, black gunpowder, pellets, and other unspecified weapons were found. The authorities also seized Ricardo Franco Front propaganda and a notebook containing details of future actions by that organization to disrupt public order.

Five people who were at the operations base fled when they became aware of the presence of the authorities. It was also reported that during these investigations, three 9-mm guns and several fragmentation grenades were seized when a bus on the Pereira-Manizalez route was searched. The owners of the weapons escaped by mingling with the other passengers, official spokesmen added.

FARC LEADER PRAISES GOVERNMENT PEACE POLICY

PA292358 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 May 85

[Text] Bogota -- Manuel Marulanda Velez, leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC], praised the peace policy promoted by President Belisario Betancur's government and stated that if it were not for those efforts, a war would be raging in Colombia. During the meeting held in [15-second break in transmission] national peace. He said that sporadic violence cannot be viewed as a failure of the peace process and he criticized those who view this as such. Nevertheless, he called for a social policy that will lead to the solution of the Colombians' most urgent problems and he said that if those reforms are not established, peace will be short-lived.