

Immigration Service Drops Probe of County Inspector

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By DEAN BENDER
The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) announced Thursday it has dropped its investigation of Passaic County Purchasing Department Inspector Tschertin Sobzokov who was suspected of having illegally entered this country some 20 years ago.

"We have no reason to contemplate further action on this matter," said John Gaffney, deputy director of the INS office in Newark. Sobzokov, who resides in Paterson, was cited in news accounts in 1974 as being one of 37 individuals living in the New York metropolitan area who were being probed by the INS as possible Nazi war criminals.

Nature Of Probe

Gaffney said the INS investigation, which began two years ago, involved whether Sobzokov illegally entered the U.S. and whether his visa application was factual.

"Concerning the other allegations," Gaffney said, he couldn't comment further because of federal law guaranteeing the right of privacy of citizens being investigated by the federal government.

Sobzokov, who has repeatedly denied the allegations linking him to the Nazi war crimes, is presently hospitalized and could not be reached for comment.

Sobzokov came to this country with his family from Jordan in 1955 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1961. His visa application states that he had lived in the Caucasus area of the Soviet Union where he was born in 1924.

Forced To Join

Sobzokov has said he was forced to join the then retreating Nazi army in 1943 and wore the uniform of the German Army until 1945 when he reached Austria.

At the time the story of the investigation broke, a number of area residents came forward to give voluntary testimony as to how Sobzokov had saved their lives, shepherding them to safety of U.S. lines, dodging both German and Russian forces, and of continuing to help

them get jobs and a new start in life in the U.S. after the war's end.

Sobzokov's name was linked to a roster of officers of the German Waffen-SS which is on file in the Berlin Document Center in Germany.

The roster reportedly lists Sobzokov as a former officer of the Red Russian Army

who had either been captured by the Germans or who had deserted.

Explains List

Sobzokov has maintained that he bribed a German official to put his name on the Waffen-SS roster as a means of escaping from the Nazis.

(Continued Page 2, Col. 5)

Immigration

(Continued from Page 1)

This past December Sobzokov filed a \$5 million libel suit against the Columbia Broadcasting System for a news program aired in January 1975 that named Sobzokov as a Nazi war criminal.

Sobzokov's attorney, Michael Dennis of Garden City, N.Y., said the case has not yet come to trial and is now in the fact-finding stage.

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