

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Legislative Counsel

OLC 80-2248/a  
31 DEC 1980

Honorable Stephen J. Solarz  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Solarz:

In your letter to the Director of 26 November you ask for information pertaining to allegations against United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. You specifically mention two concerns: that he may have been a member of the Nazi Youth Movement; and that during his military service in World War II, he may have participated in the slaughter of Soviet Jews.

We believe that Waldheim was not a member of the Nazi Youth Movement, nor was he involved in anti-Jewish activities.

We have no intelligence reporting in detail on Waldheim's military service. However, we have gleaned the following from German open source materials. Upon the outbreak of war in 1939, Waldheim was drafted at age 20 into the German Army. He served as a staff intelligence officer with the rank of lieutenant, assigned to the 45th Infantry Division. This Division saw action in the Polish Campaign (September 1939) and the assaults on France (May 1940). It was sent to the Eastern Front in June 1941 to take part in the invasion of the U.S.S.R. Waldheim's service with this Division ended in 1941 when he received a leg wound. There is nothing in the files to suggest that while in this unit Waldheim participated directly or indirectly in anti-Jewish activities.

His recuperation from the leg wound required almost a year; he was discharged from military duties following his recovery and returned to study law in Vienna. He received his doctorate in law in 1944 and in 1945 began his diplomatic career in the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2007

Sincerely,

Frederick P. Hitz