

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 87-5713

16 NOV 1987

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

Dear Mr. Solarz:

The Director has asked me to respond to your letter of 23 October 1987 requesting clarification on the files concerning Dr. Kurt Waldheim's military service during World War II.

I would like to assure you that our previous correspondence, in December 1980 and May 1986, was totally candid. We have no information in our files to answer your original 1980 question of whether Kurt Waldheim was a member of the Nazi Youth Organization or if he was engaged in anti-Jewish activities during the war. The 1945 document you cite is not relevant, nor does it speak to your concerns. By way of explanation, we did have the reference to an Oberleutnant Waldheim when we responded to your 1980 request. However, at that time, all other available information placed Kurt Waldheim in a civilian capacity in 1945 after being wounded in 1942. The one incomplete reference, which was extracted in our 1986 letter to you, was not adequate evidence to contradict all other known information on the then Secretary General, and so our 1980 letter to you did not mention it.

By 1986, information in the public domain made it appear likely that the 1945 reference to Oberleutnant Waldheim could be identical to Dr. Kurt Waldheim. Accordingly, even though the document which contained the reference was provided by a foreign service and protected under section 1.3 and 1.4 of Executive Order 12356 and U.S. Code 403g of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, we gisted the information in our response to your inquiry. These provisions make the Director of Central Intelligence responsible for protecting sources and methods and foreign government information.

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I regret the misunderstanding, but wish to assure you again that it has not been caused by any desire to withhold or misconstrue our file holdings. We did, in fact, do the best we could to ensure that you had the fullest possible information.

Sincerely,

DS

David D. Gries
Director of Congressional Affairs

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