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Chapter Fourteen

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You Cannot Expect To Be Thanked (U)

In the years after the war, the Central Intelligence Agency occasionally responded to inquiries about Nazis who had escaped justice. Adolf Eichmann, the "Architect of the Final Solution," attracted international attention when he was abducted by the Israelis in Argentina and taken to Israel to stand trial in 1960.¹ Even before that point, Eichmann was the subject of ongoing interest in the Central Intelligence Agency. Drawing on information provided by Wilhelm Hoettl and another SS officer, Henry Hecksher noted in June 1946, "there are strong indications that he [Eichmann] is alive and practically none that he has committed suicide. His capture should be high up on the agenda of Allied law enforcement agencies." Hecksher informed Washington, "it was Eichmann who fed a never ending stream of Jews into the extermination mills at Auschwitz, Mauthausen, etc. He was chief adviser to SS *Obergruppenfuhrer* Mueller, Amtschef IV RSHA, and to Kaltenbrunner on Jewish affairs. His so-called *Sonderkommandos*, committed whenever Germany decided to 'solve' the Jewish problem in one of the satellite countries (Hungary,

¹For literature on Eichmann, see Michael Bar-Zohar, *The Avengers*. Trans. by Len Ortzen (London: Arthur Baker, 1968); Towiah Friedman, *The Hunter* (Garden City: Doubleday, 1961); Isser Harel, *The House on Garibaldi Street: The First Full Account of the Capture of Adolf Eichmann* (New York: Viking Press, 1975); Peter Z. Malkin, *Eichmann in My Hands* (New York: Warner Books, 1990); Moshe Pearlman, *The Capture and Trial of Adolf Eichmann* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1963); Quentin J. Reynolds, *Minister of Death: The Adolf Eichman Story* (London: Cassell, 1961); Simon Wiesenthal, *Ich Jagte Eichmann: Tatsachenbericht* (Guntersloh: S. Mohn, 1961); and Charles Wighton, *Eichmann: His Career and Crimes* (London: Odhams Press, 1961). (U)

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Denmark) had the function of setting up the machinery for corralling Jews and shipping them to the various extermination camps of Europe.”² (S)

The Counter Intelligence Corps did, in fact, try to track down rumors of Eichmann's whereabouts in Austria and Germany in 1946. According to one CIC source, Eichmann was believed to be living in Upper Bavaria, while his wife lived in Austria as did his parents-in-law.³ CIC subsequently went and interviewed Vera Liebel, Eichmann's former wife in Alt Aussee in November 1946. Liebel told the Army's investigator that she had not seen Eichmann since sometime in April 1945 when he visited her and their three children. According to Liebel, Eichmann planned to return to Prague after his short visit to Austria. She later learned from Eichmann's sister in November 1945 that he had been shot in the Czech city. A confidential source told the Americans that Eichmann had remained in Austria as late as November 1945, but that the Czechs may have killed him in Prague at that time. The same source stated that Eichmann, who spoke “fluent Yiddish,” may have also hidden in Jewish refugee camps until he made his way to Palestine to join up with the Grand Mufti, a known Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semite. At the time of the CIC report in late 1946, the source

²AB-51 [Henry D. Hecksher], “SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Adolf Eichmann—Chief of Group IB B 4 of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, the So-Called Judenreferat,” 17 June 1946, (S), in Adolf Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

³This lead, provided by Frau Baldur von Schirach to CIC Special Agent M. Gale Hoffman with the 430th CIC Detachment in Austria, came from Sender Jaari, an interrogator at the International Military Tribunal and a former OSS member. See M. Gale Hoffman, 430th CIC Detachment, Land Salzburg Section, “Eichmann, Adolf SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer,” 21 October 1946, (C), and Julius Stein, Nurnberg Field Office, Region VI (Bamberg), CIC, USFET, to Office in Charge, “Eichmann, Adolf,” (C), both in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (C)

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alleged that Eichmann had escaped to Egypt. Thus, in a little over a year after the end of the war, the Eichmann myth had been already born.⁴ (C)

Not Within the Competence of This Agency (U)

Eichmann's location and activities continued to raise questions. In 1953, the Central Intelligence Agency, for the first time, received a public request for information about a Nazi war criminal. Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz, president and dean of the Mirrer Yeshiva Central Institute in New York, appealed to Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower in July to take action against Adolf Eichmann, whom he believed to be hiding in the Middle East. Kalmanowitz wanted the United States to demand Eichmann's extradition. According to newspaper accounts, Eichmann was seen on a train in Syria in the company of the Grand Mufti. "May I therefore appeal to you, Mr. President, in the name of democracy and human decency to use your power of office to apprehend this mass murderer so that he may be stopped from further acts of tyranny and slaughter and cease the menace to the freedom of loving peoples everywhere," Rabbi Kalmanowitz wrote Eisenhower on 20 July 1953.⁵ (U)

Kalmanowitz's request made its way to the State Department where Parker T. Hart, director of Near Eastern Affairs, responded on 24 August 1953. "The United States has, of course, no power to arrest an individual in another country. In any event," Hart

⁴430th CIC Detachment, Upper Austria Section, Memorandum for the Officer in Charge, "Liebel, Vera Ex-Wife of Eichmann, Otto Adolf Alleged War Criminal," 10 December 1946, (C), in Eichmann, [] DO Records. (C)

⁵Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz, President and Dean, Mirrer Yeshiva Central Institute, to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 20 July 1953, in DCI Records, [] , Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. (U)

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noted, "it is by no means clear what country Eichmann is now in or what he may be doing. Under these circumstances it is not possible for this Government to make any representations to any other government concerning his activities, or to take any other action in the matter."⁶ (U)

Rabbi Kalmanowitz then appealed to Adolf A. Berle, Jr., a member of Roosevelt's "Brain Trust" and former Undersecretary of State, for help. Berle, in turn, wrote a personal note to DCI Dulles (both men had served as delegates to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919). "The State Department obviously can do little by the diplomatic route," Berle told Dulles. "But it occurs to me," Berle wrote on 28 September 1953, "you may have ways at least of assuring that the man [Eichmann] is not making more trouble, possibly in time of finding him in some place where he can be dealt with. My object in writing this letter," Berle commented, "is to ask whether perhaps you can take appropriate steps to see that he can be located and eventually either immobilized or brought to trial. You will know better than I what is possible in the matter," he added.⁷ (U)

Kalmanowitz quickly followed up with his own letter to Dulles on 30 September 1953. Kalmanowitz emphasized his own interest in seeing Eichmann brought to justice. "I personally negotiated with this man in an attempt to save through bribery at least 200,000 Jews, the last remnant of our people, after he had already destroyed millions of men, women, and children. When our negotiations fell through, he had the 200,000 liquidated in the gas chambers of Nazi Germany. My secret war-time representative," the rabbi recalled, "lost his wife and children at the hands of this mass murderer." Frustrated by the US Government's tepid response, Kalmanowitz commented, "I can only surmise

⁶Parker T. Hart, Director, Office of Near Eastern Affairs, to Rabbi Kalmanowitz, 24 August 1953, in DCI Records, [] [], Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. (U)

⁷Adolf A. Berle, Jr., to Allen W. Dulles, 28 September 1953, in DCI Records, [] [] Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. (U)

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from the State Department's answer that the danger of this situation has not been fully evaluated. The continued freedom of this arch criminal Eichmann poses a constant threat to freedom loving people everywhere."⁸ (U)

Not content with simply writing a letter to the Director of Central Intelligence (he had not received a reply from Dulles), Rabbi Kalmanowitz came to Washington to meet with officials of the CIA. On 20 October 1953, Sen. H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey contacted the DCI's office to ask to set up an appointment between Kalmanowitz and Dulles. Walter L. Pforzheimer, the Agency's Legislative Counsel, met with Rabbi Kalmanowitz and an old friend, Nelson B. Lasson. After listening to Kalmanowitz urge the Federal government to take action against Eichmann, Pforzheimer later wrote, "we explained to him that as an intelligence organization there was little that we could do other than make note of the information regarding Eichmann's presence in the Middle East, but that CIA was not in a position to apprehend him for trial or make representations to foreign governments." Pforzheimer recommended that the rabbi appeal to the new West German Government through the State Department to take steps to bring Eichmann to justice.⁹ (U)

On 6 November 1953, Dulles responded to Rabbi Kalmanowitz's letter and acknowledged the meeting several weeks earlier. "We appreciate the information you passed us about Eichmann's whereabouts," the DCI wrote, "but I believe they advised

⁸Kalmanowitz to Dulles, 30 September 1953, in DCI Records, [] [] Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. (U)

⁹Walter L. Pforzheimer, Legislative Counsel, Memorandum for the Record, "Visit of Rabbi Kalmanowitz," 21 October 1953, in DCI Records, [] [] Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. For further information about Kalmanowitz's meeting at the CIA, see [] [] to Acting Chief, NEA, "Appeal to DCI by Mr. Adolph Berle and Rabbi Kalmanowitz for CIA Action to 'Deal' with Nazi War Criminal Karl Eichmann," 20 October 1953, (S), in Eichmann, [] [] DO Records. (S)

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you that action in this matter is not within the competence of this Agency.”¹⁰

Throughout the first months of 1954, Rabbi Kalmanowitz tried to attract the interest of US policymakers to Eichmann's presence in the Middle East and the cooperation between the Arabs and former Nazis against the state of Israel. In early May, Kalmanowitz wrote Henry A. Byroade to broadcast his warnings about the threats posed by the Arabs. Not receiving a reply, the rabbi once again wrote to the State Department. “These facts,” Kalmanowitz told Byroade on 25 June 1954, “prove without a shadow of a doubt that Eichmann and his friends are behind the Arabian acts of aggression and should suffice for the American Government to stop the shipment of arms to the Arabian countries until they abandon their warlike intentions and agree to act and live at peace with Israel and the rest of the nations of the world.”¹¹ (U)

Rumors of Eichmann (U)

While the Agency's replies to Kalmanowitz appeared curt and less than helpful, the rabbi's letters prompted DCI Dulles to initiate his own search for Eichmann. On 20

¹⁰Dulles to Kalmanowitz, 6 November 1953, DCI Records, [redacted] , Box 5, Folder 187, CIA ARC. The DCI also notified a US senator about his meeting with Rabbi Kalmanowitz. See Dulles to Sen. Irving M. Ives, 6 November 1953, in DCI Records, [redacted] , Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. (U)

¹¹Kalmanowitz to Henry A. Byroade, Assistant Secretary of State, 25 June 1954, in DCI Records, [redacted] , Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. Kalmanowitz also wrote DCI Dulles to tell him about his efforts to get the State Department interested in Eichmann. R.W. Fuller, assistant to the DCI, informed Kalmanowitz that the “question of Adolf Eichmann is a matter that is not within the jurisdiction of the Central Intelligence Agency.” As far as being able to help Kalmanowitz with contacting the State Department, Fuller wrote, “I am sure that you will agree that it is impossible for this Agency to influence internal administrative matters of other Departments of the Government.” See Kalmanowitz to Dulles, 29 June 1954, ER 5-7281, and R.W. Fuller III, Assistant to the Director, to Kalmanowitz, 1 July 1954, both in DCI Records, [redacted] , Box 5, Folder 55, CIA ARC. The rabbi continued to appeal to Allen Dulles for assistance in the Eichmann matter as late as 1959. (U)

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October 1953, the same day that Kalmanowitz visited the CIA, the DCI sent a cable to [redacted] to "request immediate inquiries [to] determine possible presence [in] your area [of] Karl [sic] Eichmann, Nazi war criminal held responsible [for the] liquidation [of] Jews." Headquarters noted that an Israeli press account claimed that Eichmann was in Syria with the Grand Mufti in July.¹² (S)

The responses from the Middle Eastern stations were all negative, although [redacted] reported some information about Eichmann that was current as of 1951.¹³ According to the wife of a former SS officer in Egypt, a Karl Heinz Eichmann was a prisoner at a US camp in Rimini, Italy, with Herbert Kappler, the SS commander in Rome during the war. After learning of Kappler's conviction by an Italian court, Eichmann and a German naval officer escaped from the POW camp and made their way from Italy to Austria and then back to Italy. Obtaining a pass from the Syrian legation in Rome, Eichmann arrived in that country sometime in 1947 or 1948. Eichmann served as the "political adviser to the Syrian Government," but moved to Egypt in 1951. Unable to receive aid in that country, he then departed that same year, although the source did not know his destination.¹⁴ (S)

Not only were the references to Eichmann vague and outdated, his name was often listed differently. Armed with fresh information, Kermit Roosevelt, the chief of the Near East and Africa Division asked [redacted] in early 1954 to recheck its sources for information on Eichmann, "even though it is manifestly spurious in several details."

¹²Cable, Director to [redacted] 20 October 1953, Director 23859, OUT 95605, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

¹³See Cable, [redacted] to Director, 25 October 1953, [redacted] 331, IN 29090, (S); Cable, [redacted] to Director, 27 October 1953, [redacted] 008, IN 29469, (S); Cable, [redacted] to Director, 27 October 1953, [redacted] 224, IN 29568, (C); and Cable, [redacted] to Director, 27 October 1953, [redacted] 420, IN 29523, (S), all in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

¹⁴Chief of Station, [redacted] to Chief, NEA, "Traces on Karl Heinz Eichmann," 23 November 1953, NECA-1131, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

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Roosevelt reiterated, "while we are interested in the whereabouts and activities of Eichmann, it is not within [CIA's] jurisdiction to take any action in connection with his status as a war criminal."¹⁵ (S)

A Magnificent Job (U)

After this burst of activity, the CIA's interest in Eichmann diminished until the news of his abduction by the Israelis in May 1960.¹⁶ In perhaps the most famous trial of a Nazi war criminal after the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, an Israeli court convicted Eichmann of crimes against humanity and sentenced him to death in 1962. World leaders expressed shock that leading Nazis had somehow escaped the postwar trials. In Washington, the Agency was taken by surprise by the Israeli action and sent a cable to Berlin requesting an immediate check on Eichmann's records at the Berlin Documents Center and for any information available on the German fugitive at the International Tracing Service.¹⁷ (S)

¹⁵Chief, NEA to Chief of Station, [redacted] "Karl Eichmann," 6 January 1954, NQBW-400, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. [redacted] replied that its source was unable to find any information that a person named Eichmann had entered Iraq. See Acting Chief of Station, [redacted] to Chief, NEA, "Karl Eichmann, 6 April 1954, NQBA-757, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

¹⁶Lawrence Fellows, "Israel Seizes Nazi Chief of Extermination of Jews," *New York Times*, 24 May 1960, pp. 1 and 10; and Fellows, "Israeli Security Agents Seized Nazi Killer in Another Nation," *New York Times*, 25 May 1960, pp. 1 and 21. (U)

¹⁷Cable, Director to Berlin, 25 May 1960, Director 31514, OUT 79362, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. The BDC traced Eichmann on 26 May 1960 and provided Headquarters with photocopies in Chief of Base, Berlin, to Chief, EE, "BDC Check Results--Adolf Eichmann," 10 June 1960, EGBA-64092, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. Headquarters subsequently asked the BDC if Eichmann's SS file had any fingerprints after it had received a set from Argentina. See Cable, Director to Berlin, 2 June 1960, Director 32621, OUT 81786, (S), negative response in Cable, Berlin to Director, 3 June 1960, Berlin 9595, IN 47651, (S) and Deputy Director, Plans to Director, FBI, "Ricardo Klement, Request for

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At the same time, [redacted] [redacted], the deputy chief of the CI Staff's Special Projects Group, met with [redacted] [redacted], a liaison officer at the Israeli Embassy in Washington on 26 May 1960. While the meeting had been set up to discuss the transfer of technical equipment, [redacted] [redacted] actually wanted to learn more about Eichmann's arrest and how he was taken to Israel. Richard Helms, the Chief of Operations and Deputy to the Deputy Director for Plans, wanted to inform DCI Dulles about the Israeli action. [redacted] [redacted] also passed to Idan the Agency's verbal congratulations "on the final accomplishment of what appeared to be a magnificent job." Additionally, [redacted] [redacted] extended an offer to the Israelis to search for information about Eichmann in captured Nazi documents still in American hands. [redacted] [redacted], however, was not able to provide [redacted] [redacted] with any details of the Eichmann operation because he himself was uninformed about the circumstances surrounding the case.¹⁸ (S)

At the same time, [redacted] [redacted], CIA's chief [redacted] [redacted], began sending copies of Israeli press reporting about Eichmann's arrest.¹⁹ Headquarters pressed

Fingerprint Analysis of," 29 June 1960, CSCI-3/760,267, (S), all in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted] DO Records. For information about tracking Eichmann in ITS records, see James S. Beddie, Director, Berlin Documents Center to Dr. Nicolas Burckhardt, Director International Tracing Service, 20 June 1960; Burckhardt to Beddie, 23 June 1960; Beddie to Burckhardt, 12 July 1960; and Burckhardt to Beddie, 18 July 1960; and Chief of Base, Berlin to Chief, EE, "Adolf Eichmann," 27 July 1960, EGBA-64711, (S), all in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records.

¹⁸ [redacted] [redacted], Memorandum for the Record, "Meeting with [redacted] [redacted]," 26 May 1960, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records. (S)

¹⁹For example, see [redacted] [redacted] to James J. Angleton, "Capture of Adolf Eichman," 27 May 1960, NFVA-1395, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Capture of Adolf Eichmann," 6 June 1960, NFVA-1411, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Case/Organization of Israeli Security and Intelligence Services," 9 June 1960, NFVA-1430, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Adolf Eichman Case," 9 June 1960, NFVA-1433, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Tuvia Friedman," 9 June 1960, NFVA-1439, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Tuvia Friedman," 13 June 1960, NFVA-1445, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Case," 16 June 1960, NFVA-1458, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Case," 25 June 1960, NFVA-1473, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann," 25 July 1960, NFVA-1532, (S); [redacted] [redacted] to Angleton, "DDR Accuses Hans Globke of Nazi Crimes/Adolf Eichmann Case/Israel's Relations with Soviet Bloc," 8 August 1960, NFVA-

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to obtain more information about Eichmann from Israeli intelligence officials, as the press accounts were still vague as to how the Israelis tracked him down and where. Washington wanted its representative in Tel Aviv to use the media's reporting as a way to get to the bottom of the truth. Likewise, the CIA was interested in Eichmann's arrest because it offered a window into the organization, personnel, and capabilities of the Israeli intelligence services.²⁰ (S)

The Agency's Behind-the-Scenes Role (U)

While collecting more information about the actual Israeli kidnapping operation, the CIA continued to examine its own holdings related to Eichmann. In part, the Agency did this to assist the Israelis, but also to defend itself against communist efforts to use Eichmann's arrest against the West.²¹ In the months after Eichmann's arrest and

1573, (S), to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Case," 15 August 1960, NFVA-1592, (S); to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Case," 16 August 1960, NFVA-1596, (S); to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Case," 18 August 1960, NFVA-1602, (S); to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann case," 14 December 1960, NFVA-1838, (S); to Angleton, "Possible Soviet-Bloc Role in Adolf Eichmann Case," 7 February 1961, NFVA-1943, (S); to Angleton, "Hessian Attorney General Fritz Bauer," 14 February 1961, NFVA-1964, (S); to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Trial," 27 February 1961, NFVA-1982, (S); to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Case," 6 March 1961, NFVA-2005, (S); to Angleton, "Possible Communist Exploitation of Trial of Adolf Eichmann," 16 March 1961, NFVA-2027, (S); to Angleton, "Adolf Eichmann Trial," 2 May 1961, NFVA-2134, (S); to Angleton, "Eichmann Trial Visit/Cover Relations with," 25 May 1961, NFVA-2183, (S), all in Eichmann, , DO Records. (S)

²⁰Cable, Director to , 3 June 1960, Director 32810, OUT 82115, (S), in Eichmann, , DO Records. (S)

²¹For the transmittal of German records found by the CIA (including material in Eichmann's BDC file) to the Israelis, see Extract and Cross Reference of Memorandum for the Record, "Meeting with on 15 June 1960," (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 15 June 1960, RJ-1953, (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 17 June 1960, RJ-1956, (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 22 June 1960, RJ-1964, (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 1 July 1960, RJ-1974, (S); "DDR Accuses Hans Globke of Nazi Crimes," 29 July 1960, RJ-1999, (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 5 August 1960, RJ-2013, (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 28

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throughout his trial, the Soviets and the East Germans attacked Western nations for supporting Nazi war criminals.²² During the Security Council debate in June 1960, the Soviet and Polish Governments voted against the resolution that Israel make adequate reparations for Eichmann's transfer from Argentina. The Polish delegate stressed that war criminals, like Eichmann, should be punished. He urged West Germany to rid itself of war criminals together with "many former Nazis and Hitlerite officers," which had become a "major political force."²³ Eichmann's arrest and trial marked the beginning of a major campaign by East Germany to expose the large numbers of former Nazis in positions of power in West Germany.²⁴ (S)

In early June, the CI Staff submitted a preliminary report of the results of its search of captured German documents in Washington—some five miles of records—for

October 1960, RJ-2110, (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 25 November 1960, RJ-2150, (S), all in Eichmann, , DO Records. (S)

²²For example, Sherman Kent, the chairman of the Board of National Estimates, prepared a report on the Eichmann case. "What is of intelligence interest," he wrote, "are the political and propaganda implications of the trial. There will be considerable latitude for various interested states to exploit the proceedings for their own use." See Sherman Kent, Office of National Estimates, to the Director of Central Intelligence, "The Eichmann Case," 28 March 1961, (S), in Eichmann, , DO Records. (S)

²³Telegram, New York to Secretary of State, USUN Information Digest No. 255, "Eichmann Case," 24 June 1960, 18265, in Eichmann, , DO Records. (U)

²⁴For example, see a German-language documentary report, "Eichmann Trial Exploited for Defamation campaign against the Federal Republic by Eastern Propaganda and Agitation," 22 February 1961, in DO Records, , Box 2, Folder 19, CIA ARC. This collection of documents was published in Frankfurt am Main in 1961 as "Eichmann Trial Exploited for Defamation campaign Against the Federal Republic by Eastern Propaganda and Agitation; Documentary Report." This document, in fact, was a BND rebuttal to charges that the West German Government was full of ex-Nazis. It was hand-delivered by a BND officer to DCI Dulles in February 1961. See Cable, Munich to Director, 22 February 1961, Munich 4517, IN 48939, (S), and Cable, Munich to Director, 23 February 1961, Munich 4523, IN 49428, (S), both in Eichmann, , DO Records. An East German summary of Nazis in positions of power in West Germany is found in National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany and the Documentation Center of the State Archives Administration of the German Democratic Republic, *Brown Book: War and Nazi Criminals in West Germany: State, Economy, Administration, Army, Justice, Science* (Dresden: Verlag Zeit im Bild, 1965). (S)

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information on Eichmann. Among the items located, the CI Staff discovered a 4 November 1937 report prepared by Eichmann and another SS member about their trip to several countries, including Palestine, in September 1937. According to this report, Eichmann used Dr. Franz Reichert, a German press representative in Palestine, as his principal agent. Reichert, in turn, ran a Jewish subagent, known variously as Feiwei or Feibel Polkes, whose only means of livelihood came from the 20 pounds that he received monthly from his German handler. Polkes apparently reported to the Germans on the Jewish activities in the Middle East.²⁵ Additionally, the Agency's search for material on Eichmann led it to uncover wartime information about two other German SS officers—Otto von Bolschwing and Dr. Franz Six.²⁶ (S)

Both the Israeli and West German Governments launched an extensive investigation into Eichmann's wartime activities after his arrest. The Agency operated behind-the-scenes to grant both the Germans and Israelis access to the captured wartime

²⁵With the assistance of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the CIA learned that Polkes, an Israeli native, had visited the United States as recently as January 1954. The CI Staff report also lists several of Eichmann's other agents, including a man by the name of von Bolschwing, who is suspected of being identical to Otto von Bolschwing. See [] Acting Chief, CI Staff, to Director of Central Intelligence, "Adolf Eichmann," 1 June 1960, XAAZ-16241, (S), in Eichmann, [] , DO Records. Headquarters sent the list of Eichmann's agents to the Berlin Documents Center for tracing. See Cable, Director to Berlin, 15 June 1960, Director 35039, OUT 86455, (S); Chief of Base, Berlin to Chief, EE, "Forwarding of BDC Check Results," 21 June 1960, EGBA-64261, (S); Chief of Base, Berlin to Chief, EE, "Forwarding of Second Copy of BDC Check Results," 23 June 1960, EGBA-64267, (S), all in Eichmann, [] , DO Records. (S)

²⁶For details about Dr. Six, who had been Eichmann's supervisor, see Cable, Director to Frankfurt, 17 June 1960, Director 35421, OUT 87207, (S), in Franz Alfred Six, [] DO Records. For the CI Staff's findings on Otto von Bolschwing, who worked with Eichmann before the war, see [] Chief, R&A to Chief, CI/Liaison, "Otto Albrecht Alfred von Bolschwing," 2 February 1961, (S), and [unsigned], Memorandum for the Record, "Otto Albrecht Alfred von Bolschwing," 10 April 1961, (S), both in Bolschwing, [] DO Records. (S)

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records still in US hands.²⁷ The Agency also worked with the West German BND to determine if rumors of the existence of Eichmann's memoirs were true and if the material was genuine. The Agency learned that *Life Magazine* had purchased a copy in Argentina of transcripts of German-language tapes shortly after Eichmann's arrest. The Germans were concerned about the authenticity of the memoirs and whether it was a forgery or a smear job aimed at the West German Government.²⁸ (S)

As the case approached trial in Israel, the Agency responded to a variety of unusual requests.²⁹ In early January 1961, Munich Base informed Headquarters that the

²⁷The Israelis were interested in what the Germans had found among the captured Nazi records in Washington. See Extract and Cross Reference, Memorandum for the Record, "Luncheon Meeting with [redacted] 9 August 1960, (S); "Erwin Schuele, Head of the Zentralstelle der Landesjustizverwaltung, Ludwigsburg," 11 August 1960, (S); Cable, Director to [redacted], 17 August 1960, Director 45723, OUT 59164, (S); "Adolf Eichmann," 20 August 1960, Cable-136; and Cable, [redacted] to Director, 20 August 1960, [redacted] 1072, IN 40785, (S); Memorandum for the Record, "Officials of the West German Government Examining Captured German Records on Eichmann," 13 September 1960, (S); and [redacted], Memorandum for the Record, "Israel Access to Eichmann Material in Archives," 29 September 1960," (S), all in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

²⁸Cable, Munich to Director, 13 September 1960, Munich 2028, IN 11985, (S); Cable, Director to Munich, 15 September 1960, Director 00792, OUT 70128, (S); Cable, Munich to Director, 16 September 1960, Munich 2099, (S); Cable, Director to Munich, 17 September 1960, Director 01209, OUT 70972, (S); Cable, Director to Munich, 20 September 1960, Director 01652, OUT 71896, (S); Cable, Frankfurt to Director, 11 October 1960, Frankfurt 6363, IN 25805, (S); Cable, Munich to Director, 18 October 1960, Munich 2674, IN 29445, (S); Cable, Director to Munich, 19 October 1960, Director 06904, OUT 82854, (S); Cable, Hamburg to Director, 1 November 1960, Hamburg 1680, IN 36368, (S); and Cable, Director to Munich, Frankfurt, and Hamburg, 22 November 1960, Director 12757, OUT 95038, (S); Cable, Munich to Director, 1 December 1960, Munich 3335, IN 10595, (S); Cable, Munich to Director, 9 May 1961, Munich 5673, IN 48194, (S); Cable, Munich to Director, 17 May 1961, Munich 5786, IN 12191, (S); Cable, Munich to Director, 17 October 1961, Munich 8081, IN 47319, (S), all in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

²⁹Perhaps the most unusual request came from the FBI who reported that Helmut Felsch, an inmate at Clinton prison in New York and a former patient at the Miami Sanatorium and Neurological Institute, claimed to have served under Eichmann while in the German Army during the war. He also claimed to have information on Josef Mengele. It appears that the Agency took no action on this information. See FBI, Albany. "Adolph Eichmann; Dr. Josef Mengele," 17 February 1961, in Eichmann. [redacted], DO Records. (U)

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BND had received a letter from the German military attache in Madrid. Otto Skorzeny, one of the best-known SS officers to survive the war, told the West German embassy that he planned to sue a German magazine for slander in alleging that Skorzeny had helped Eichmann to flee from Austria to Spain in 1948. Skorzeny wanted Reinhard Gehlen, president of the BND, to provide him with "some sort of official character testimonial from West German intel service especially concerning allegations." Gehlen wanted to help Skorzeny, but was reluctant to provide written documents as the German intelligence chief felt that Skorzeny could use that against him. The BND chief asked if the Americans could certify that Skorzeny was still in prison in 1948 when the magazine claims that he aided Eichmann. The Agency told Gehlen that it was reluctant to involve itself in this matter, especially as it seemed that the magazine was a "scandal sheet."³⁰ Interestingly, the Agency later informed the Israelis in March 1961 that it had received unconfirmed reports that Skorzeny planned to murder Eichmann.³¹ (S)

The United States also grew concerned about a growing movement in West Germany and Israel against West German State Secretary Dr. Hans Globke, a senior member of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's staff.³² Globke, who wrote the official commentary for the 1935 Nuremberg Race Laws, was being linked Eichmann. The Agency, working with the Israelis, kept a wary eye on Eichmann's lawyer, Dr. Robert Servatius. The West Germans and the Americans felt that Servatius used Eichmann to exploit the Globke issue and that he was not above extortion. Likewise, the State

³⁰Cable, Munich to Director, 4 January 1961, Munich 3729, IN 25903, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. For further details on Skorzeny, see Otto Skorzeny, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

³¹Cable, Director to [redacted], 3 March 1961, Director 27944, OUT 79699, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted], DO Records. (S)

³²See Reinhard M. Strecker, ed., *Dr. Hans Globke: Aktenauszüge, Dokumente* (Hamburg: Rutten and Loening, 1961). (U)

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Department tried to assess the position of Fritz Bauer, the SPD attorney general in the West German state of Hesse, who was also active in the drive to remove Globke.³³ (S)

As the trial got underway in early 1961, the Agency supported the Israelis by checking its records on the journalists scheduled to cover the event.³⁴ While it did not uncover any pro-Nazis or anti-Semites among the pool, the CIA told the Israelis that three of the correspondents were suspected of communist ties.³⁵ Officials in Washington also evaluated copies of World War II-era German documents that the Israelis had clandestinely copied during a "bag job" of Prof. Friedrich Kaul, a lawyer from East Germany representing Jews in that country to make civil claims against Eichmann. The Israelis were especially interested in one document in Kaul's possession which []

[] of the CI Staff assessed as being false.³⁶ (S)

The Agency became very involved in the Eichmann case. It closely followed leads that the German SS officer had converted to communism while in an Israeli prison. That information, which a CIA officer discussed with Reinhard Gehlen, was reported by the West German intelligence chief as a leak from Eichmann's lawyer. Given the source of the information and how the West Germans obtained it, the CIA opted not to surface

³³Wayland B. Waters, American Consul, Frankfurt, to the Department of State, "The Eichmann Trial and the Allegations against State Secretary Dr. Globke-A Conversation with Hessian Attorney General Fritz Bauer," 7 February 1961, (C), in Eichmann, [] [] DO Records. (C)

³⁴See "Journalists Who [Have] Applied for Accreditation to Attend the Eichmann Trial," 11 January 1961, [no classification listed], in Eichmann, [] [] DO Records. (S)

³⁵"Journalists Who Have Applied for Accreditation to Attend the Eichmann Trial," 8 February 1961, [no classification listed], in Eichmann, [] [] DO Records. (S)

³⁶[] []; Memorandum for the Record, "More Background on the Eichmann Trial," 16 March 1961, (S), and [] [] Memorandum for the Record, "Evaluation of the Eichmann Documents," 17 March 1961, (S) in Eichmann, [] [] DO Records. For a report on Kaul, see [] [] Jr., Chief, Special Projects Group, to Chief, EE/G, "Dr. Friedrich Karl Kaul," 6 April 1961, (S), in Eichmann, [] [] DO Records. (S)

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the story in the press.³⁷ More importantly, the Agency intercepted mail in West Germany related to the Eichmann case, including correspondence from his lawyer in Israel.³⁸ CIA also tracked down Manual Arthur da Silva, a Brazilian who walked into the US Consulate in Sao Paulo and claimed that he had worked for the Argentine intelligence service. Da Silva said that the Israelis now threatened him for protecting Eichmann. Traces done at Headquarters and in [redacted] [redacted] were negative.³⁹ (S)

Eichmann lingered in his prison cell until his execution in Tel Aviv in June 1963—the first death sentence carried out in the state of Israel. He went to his fate in a calm manner and told the witnesses, “Long live Germany, long live Argentina, long live Austria . . . I had to obey the laws of war and my flag.”⁴⁰ His death brought to a close an interesting chapter in the CIA’s relationship with the Israelis and its first postwar experience with Nazi war criminals. Shin Bet officer [redacted] [redacted], basking in the glow of the Eichmann case, remarked, “In our business, of course, you cannot expect to be thanked, and this has really been extraordinary.”⁴¹ Such euphoria was short-lived; the

³⁷Gordon M. Stewart, Chief, EE, to DCI Dulles, 21 April 1961, XAAZ-17026, (S), inclosing Allen W. Dulles to Director, United States Information Agency, “Allegation that Eichmann is Now a Communist,” in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records. See also Cable, Munich to Director, 9 May 1961, Munich 5673, IN 48194, (S); Cable, Munich to Director, 5 June 1961, Munich 6012, IN 20404, (S); and Cable, Munich to Director, 17 October 1961, Munich 8081, IN 47319, (S), all in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records. (S)

³⁸Chief, Munich Liaison Base to Chief, EE, “Intercepted Correspondence Concerning Adolf Eichmann,” 13 November 1961, EGMA-56739, (S), and Chief, Munich Liaison Base to Chief, EE, “Efforts on Behalf of Adolf Eichmann by Otto Skorzeny,” 7 May 1962, EGMA-58608, (S) both in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records. See also Cable, Munich to Director, 28 February 1962, Munich 0042, IN 34671, (S), in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records. (S)

³⁹Cable, Director to [redacted] [redacted] 24 June 1961, Director 47248, OUT 69900, (S), and Cable, [redacted] [redacted] to Director, 29 June 1961, [redacted] [redacted] 6887, IN 32021, (S), both in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records. (S)

⁴⁰Ayre Wallenstein, “Adolf Eichmann Dies on the Gallows; Self-Possessed, Defiant to the End,” *Washington Post*, 1 June 1963, pp. A1 and A15. (U)

⁴¹“Memorandum of Conversation with [redacted] [redacted]” 23 November 1960, [no classification listed], in Eichmann, [redacted] [redacted], DO Records. (S)

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Eichmann case marked the advent of a long journey in the reconciliation of the Central Intelligence Agency with its Cold War past. (S)