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OLL 85-0268/2
29 January 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

AM

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) on
Dr. Josef Mengele

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1. On 29 January 1985 Messrs. Stanley Sporkin, General Counsel; [redacted] OGC; and [redacted] senior political analyst in South America Division, DI/ALA, briefed Senator Alfonse D'Amato on Dr. Josef Mengele. The meeting was in response to the Senator's letter to the DCI and a telephone conversation with Mr. Sporkin. The briefing, scheduled for 2:30, started at 3 p.m. and lasted approximately an hour. The briefing held in 520 Hart was also attended by Messrs. Bruce Ray and Michael Hathaway of the Senator's personal staff and [redacted] from OLL/Liaison Division.

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2. Starting the briefing, Mr. Sporkin said the Senator's request had been taken seriously and over the weekend a crew had searched our records for information on Mengele. Also, we were going a step further to satisfy his request by providing the Senator with a briefing on the latest evaluation by a senior analyst familiar with the case.

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3. [redacted] commented that the following files were checked:

a. post-war (CIC and Army) involving OSS and predecessor organizations--only three references to an individual who might be Mengele were found; two in the name [redacted] (attached). All appeared to be entirely benign references but in the time frame when Mengele was in the army in Germany. The documents were read by Senator D'Amato. He was also shown a telephone directory of security police in France during the war.

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b. DO post-war files--seven documents. All of the following documents (attached) were read by Senator D'Amato:

(1) 12 July 1972 cable to Asuncion. Senator D'Amato was interested in the use of Dr. Henrique Wollman as an alias for Mengele. He asked his

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assistant to make note of this so it could be given to the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

(2) 18 July 1972 cable from Asuncion

(3) 10 June 74 dispatch from Asuncion

(4) 1 October 1979 memorandum to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Senator D'Amato commented that he did not know why the narcotics people would be interested unless Mengele were involved in narcotics, which would explain how he could stay hidden.

(5) 30 August 1972 FBIS document

(6) 30 November 1979 memorandum to DEA.

(7) 15 October 1979 memorandum from DEA.

4. [] summarized the evidence available to date on Mengele, its validity and made some remarks on Mengele's relationship with the Paraguayan government, his ability to evade capture, as well as potential levers on the Paraguayan government. He stated that much of the information is dated and of questionable validity and really of little use in confirming Mengele's whereabouts or even whether he is alive. For the record, following is some of the evidence presented. An authoritative, but questionable, account of Mengele's movements over the past years has come as the result of a conversation between a New York lawyer researching Mengele and

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Mengele started living in Paraguay in the mid-1950's; was granted citizenship in 1959; lived there until 1965; then visited regularly until the 1970's. An Israeli intelligence officer claimed Mengele was at a farm near Encarnacion in the early 1960's but Israeli intelligence lacked the ability to storm the fortified house. Some of the above information was corroborated by a close Stroessner associate in a mid-December 1984 conversation with the U.S. ambassador to Paraguay. He stated that from 1959 to 1965 Mengele lived in Paraguay on a farm near Encarnacion, was in the hardware business in Asuncion and then moved to Brazil. It also was claimed that Mengele moved to Portugal in the late 1960's and friends received Christmas cards until 1980. Mengele's friends believe that the cessation of the cards is an indication that he has died. Wiesenthal made unsubstantiated claims in 1982 that Mengele was

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alive and moving between Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia. Senator D'Amato was interested in the Israeli intelligence officer's comment and stated that he would be in contact with an Israeli contact of his.

25X1 4. [] commented on President Stroessner's background stressing that he was of German ancestry and was from the 1930's corporatist mold with fascist leanings. There was a report that the tie between Stroessner and Mengele stems from Mengele's treatment of a severe case of syphilis but all participants discounted this. Mengele's mobility is based on his considerable personal wealth (family owns a farm equipment firm in Germany), the sympathy of rightwingers, and the fluidity of borders with neighboring countries.

5. Senator D'Amato was told that bilateral relations with Paraguay are at a very low point given the U.S. human rights posture and Stroessner will only cooperate with us when he sees some gain in doing so. It is believed that he could locate Mengele. The Senator wanted to know Ambassador Davis' relationship with the Paraguayan government; he was told it was poor because of the Ambassador's great effort on human rights. In answer to the Senator's question re Paraguayan human rights, he was told that there are abuses but Stroessner is still extremely popular.

25X1 6. There was a discussion among the participants as to the best guess on whether Mengele is dead or alive. Interestingly, the consensus was that he is still alive. [] because of his Justice Department experience in collecting information on Nazi war criminals, gave the names of several libraries and collections which the Senator's staff should check. Senator D'Amato asked why Barbie was let go and a quick rundown was given on that case.

25X1 7. Senator D'Amato said he was deeply appreciative of the work that was done. He mentioned that he had told the press that he was having a meeting with CIA representatives and they would be providing him the opportunity to see what documents were available. Senator D'Amato asked if we would [] [] to see if there have been any sightings of Mengele there. Senator D'Amato commented that the information about the possible drug business and the use of Wollman as an alias were new.

25X1 8. Senator D'Amato wanted to know what could be said publicly. Mr. Sporkin said the Senator could state that the CIA had provided a full briefing. [] commented that as

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far as he was concerned there was nothing sensitive in the findings because they will become part of a book but the Senator should check with Ambassador Davis at his 4:30 meeting since the information was reported by the Ambassador. Senator D'Amato stated that he could say that CIA will be more than candid in the areas where it can and is not withholding information in this area. Mr. Sporkin said if the Senator decided to give a press release we would be most happy to look at and clear a press statement.

9. Following the meeting, Mr. Bruce commented that he is the one who usually makes the requests and he wanted to know if the seven documents read by the Senator could be made available to the Senator for passage to the Wiesenthal Center. [redacted]

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Attachments:

Seven documents as stated above

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[redacted]

Chief, Liaison Division, OLL

Distribution:

- Orig - OLL Record w/atts.
- 1 - OLL Chrono w/o att.
- 1 - [redacted] Chrono w/o att.

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