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# U.S. Jews Ask Papal Inquiry Into Reports of Aid to Nazis

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

Prominent American Jews, reacting to allegations of Vatican aid for fugitive Nazi war criminals, called on Pope John Paul II yesterday to investigate "what role if any was played by members of the Catholic hierarchy in the illegal emigration of Nazis following World War II."

The request came in a telegram sent to the Pope by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, a New York group representing 37 organizations. The telegram was signed by the group's chairman, Julius Berman.

The presidents of the Jewish groups termed themselves "deeply disturbed by the report of cooperation by the Holy See with the effort of Nazi war criminals to escape justice." They called on the Pope to order the same kind of investigation as the one carried out by the Justice Department last year in the case of American involvement with Klaus Barbie, who was the head of the Gestapo in Lyons in World War II.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican, which may not yet have received the appeal. A papal spokesman, the Rev. Romeo Panciroli, said Wednesday in Rome that he would respond only to written inquiries and would need several days to check the archives.

## Telegram to Chilean President

In another appeal yesterday, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith sent a telegram to the President of Chile, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, urging the detention of Walter Rauff, a former SS colonel wanted for wartime killings of as many as 250,000 Jews in mobile poison gas vans.

"The reputation of Chile will be sorely blemished if your administration does not agree to extradite this Nazi criminal or otherwise make him available to the officials of Israel or any other country that will try him for his crimes against humanity," said the telegram, which was signed by Abraham H. Foxman, associate national director of the Jewish group.

The New York Times reported yesterday that Mr. Rauff told the Chilean Supreme Court in 1962 that he had been given refuge in Vatican convents after the war. The Times also reported that a

long-secret State Department report in 1947 called the Vatican "the largest single organization involved in the illegal movement of emigrants," including Nazis.

## Committee Hearings

The State Department report was written by Vincent La Vista, a member of the American Embassy in Rome, to another Foreign Service officer, Herbert J. Cummings. Charles R. Allen Jr., a writer on the Holocaust who obtained the report, said that his research indicated that Mr. La Vista may have worked for the United States Army Counter-Intelligence Corps but that he had found no documentation to corroborate this.

In another development, a member of the House immigration subcommittee, Representative Barney Frank, Democrat of Massachusetts, said yesterday that he expected the full Judiciary Committee to hold hearings this spring on American intelligence involvement with Nazi war criminals. The General Accounting Office has been studying the matter for Congress for about two years.

A spokesman for Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said no decision had been reached yet on hearings.

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