

SECRET

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INCOMING

/34/ DISSEM PER SOP#203

IMMEDIATE

FRP: .2,

STATE

ACTION: NONE
C/PCS. (9/W)

INFO: PRINT, RF, FILE, CSFILE, DDO-4, C/CI-2.

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TOR: 241646Z MAY 85

OD RUEAIIA
DE RUEHC #9754/O1 1441627
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 241623Z MAY 85
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO INFO CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4219
BT
SECRET STATE 159754

ROGER CHANNEL
PASS TO CIA/COPS [] TELE: 351-6976

FOLLOWING ASUNCION 3160 DTD 22 MAY SENT ACTION
SECSTATE, INFO BUENOS AIRES, BEING REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO:
QUOTE:
SECRET ASUNCION 3160

ROGER CHANNEL

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PHJM, PINR, PA
SUBJ: (S) THE SEARCH FOR JOSEF MENGELE: PROPOSED PLAN FOR COVERT
OPERATIONS IN PARAGUAY

REF: A. STATE 92234, B. STATE 133022

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT).
2. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS MAY 21 TO DISCUSS THEIR PROPOSED COVERT OPERATIONS IN PARAGUAY AIMED AT FINDING JOSEF MENGELE. THE MARSHALS PLAN TO RECRUIT COVERT AGENTS WHO WOULD OPERATE IN PARAGUAY. TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT THEY WILL NEED TO STATION A MEMBER OF THE MARSHALS SERVICE IN THIS AREA, THOUGH PROBABLY NOT AT THIS EMBASSY. THE MARSHALS WOULD, HOWEVER, NEED EMBASSY SUPPORT IN HANDLING SUCH AGENTS, PRINCIPALLY BY SIRO. THE MARSHALS ALSO PROPOSE TO LEVY SPECIFIC INFORMATION REQUESTS ON THE EMBASSY. THE EMBASSY DISCUSSED THE RISK THAT THESE COVERT OPERATIONS MIGHT BE DISCOVERED BY THE PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES, WHO MIGHT WELL INTERPRET SUCH ACTIONS AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE USG TO DISCREDIT OR EVEN DESTABILIZE THE STROESSNER REGIME. WE DISCUSSED GROUND RULES FOR THE COVERT OPERATIONS TO REDUCE THESE RISKS. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT REVIEW THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE FIRST WITH AMBASSADOR DAVIS, AND THEN MEET WITH THE MARSHALS SERVICE TO OBTAIN ITS FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GROUND RULES. IN ADDITION THE EMBASSY REQUESTS SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE COVERT OPERATIONS OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE. END SUMMARY.
3. STANLEY E. MORRIS, DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE, TOGETHER WITH HOWARD SAFIR, DIRECTOR OF THE MENGELE INVESTIGATION, AND MARSHALS DONALD F. FERRARONE AND A. RALPH ZURITA, MET WITH THE CHARGE AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS MAY 21 TO DISCUSS THE MARSHALS SERVICE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT IN PARAGUAY TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE JOSEF MENGELE. THE MARSHALS STATED THAT THEY HAD REVIEWED EXHAUSTIVELY THE BACKGROUND MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON THE MENGELE CASE, AND THAT THEY WERE NOW READY IN THE CASE OF PARAGUAY TO BEGIN COVERT OPERATIONS TO TRY TO FOLLOW AND DEVELOP LEADS.
4. THE MARSHALS STATED THAT THEY BEGAN WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT THEY COULD NOT EXPECT COOPERATION FROM THE PARAGUAYAN

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Bob

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

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GOVERNMENT, AND THEIR EFFORT HERE WOULD HAVE TO BE INTIRELY COVERT. THIS COVERT EFFORT WOULD CONSIST ESSENTIALLY OF TWO KINDS OF ACTIVITIES. ONE WOULD BE THE RECRUITMENT OF COVERT AGENTS WHO WOULD GATHER INFORMATION IN PARAGUAY. THE MARSHALS INDICATED THAT THEY ALREADY HAD A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL AGENTS, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT ALL SUCH PERSONS WOULD BE CAREFULLY SCREENED. THE SECOND KIND OF ACTIVITY WOULD BE TO ASK THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, ANALYSIS AND TO RUN DOWN LEADS IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM THE MARSHALS SERVICE. 5. IN ADDITION, THE MARSHALS SAID THAT ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WOULD NEED TO BE STATIONED IN PARAGUAY OR A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY IN ORDER TO SUPPORT HESE COVERT OPERATIONS, PREFERABLY UNDERCOVER WITHIN AN EMBASSY. GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE OF EMBASSY ASUNCION, AS WELL AS THE OFFICULTIES IN RUNNING CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS IN THE FISHBOWL ENVIRONMENT OF ASUNCION, IT WAS THE GENERAL SENSE OF TEH MEETING THAT THIS EMBASSY OUGHT NOT TO BE USED FOR SUCH A PURPOSE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. THE MARSHALS STRESSED, HOWVER, THAT THEY WOULD NEED EMBASSY SUPPORT, PRINCIPALLY THAT OF SIRO, IN THE HANDLING OF COVERT AGENTS, IF ONLY AS AN EMERGENCY POINT OF CONTACT.

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6. THE CHARGE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL CONCERNED TO UNDERSTAND THE RISKS INVOLVED IN AN OPERATION SUCH AS DESCRIBED BY THE MARSHALS. WHILE THE PARAGUAYAN POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ARE NOT OMNISCIENT THEY HAVE DURING THE YEARS OF THE STROESSNER REGIME BEEN GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN DISCOVERING ANY KIND OF UNUSUAL ACTIVITY WITHIN THE COUNTRY. THERE HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONS, OF COURSE, SUCH AS THE SOMOZA ASSASSINATION IN 1980. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES WOULD SOON BECOME AWARE OF AT LEAST SOME OF THE COVERT OPERATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED HERE.

7. THE PARAGUAYANS WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER SUCH ACTIVITIES TO BE A VIOLATION OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY. BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, THEY MIGHT PUT AN EVEN DARKER INTERPRETATION ON THEM. THE PARAGJAYAN GOVERNMENT, FROM THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN, HAS REPEATEDLY INSISTED THAT IT HAS SEARCHED FOR MENGELE AND THAT HE IS NOT HERE. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT THE USG EFFORT REPRESENTED AN ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT OR EVEN DESTABILIZE THE STROESSNER REGIME, BY REVEALING EMBARRASSING FACTS ABOUT MENGELE'S CONNECTIONS IN PARAGJAY.

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8. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THESE RISKS CAN BE REDUCED BY ESTABLISHING A NUMBER OF GROUND RULES. THE CHARGE DISCUSSED SOME OF THESE WITH THE MARSHALS, WHO SEEMED RECEPTIVE. FIRST, NO COVERT OPERATION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL.

9. SECOND, THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS SHOULD BE SOUGHT WITH REGARD TO THE RECRUITMENT OF ALL AGENTS WHO WILL BE TARGETED AGAINST PARAGJAY. IT IS POSSIBLE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IDENTIFY THOSE WHO WOULD POSE UNACCEPTABLE RISKS OR WHO WOULD BE OF LITTLE VALUE. IN PARTICULAR, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO AVOID THE USE OF PERSONS WHO ARE POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF THE STROESSNER REGIME AS COVERT AGENTS. THIS WOULD AROUSE THE WORST FEARS OF THE GOVERNMENT. IF SUCH PERSONS HAVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION, THEY SOULD BE DEALT WITH OPENLY BY THE EMBASSY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

10. FINALLY, THERE IS THE MATTER OF SCALE. THE CHARGE SUGGESTED TO THE MARSHALS THAT THEY SHOULD BEGIN THEIR COVERT OPERATIONS AGAINST PARAGJAY SLOWLY AND WITH GREAT CARE. THEY SHOULD NOT BEGIN BY TRYING TO RUN A LARGE NUMBER OF AGENTS IN THE COUNTRY OR BY UNDERTAKING OPERATIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE

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HIGHER VISIBILITY. AGAIN, THE MARSHALS SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO THIS NOTION.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT REVIEW THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE FIRST WITH AMBASSADOR DAVIS AND THEN MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARSHALS SERVICE IN WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GROUND RULES SET FORTH IM PARAS 8-10 ABOVE. THE EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTS SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE COVERT OPERATIONS OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE. CLARE
UNQUOTE SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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