SPECIAL TO THE JTA
BARBIE'S ESCAPE FROM EUROPE WAS
ARRANGED BY THE VATICAN, THE CIC
AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
By Charles Allen, Jr.

(Part One Of A Three-Part Series)

(Editor's note: Charles Allen, Jr., is an internation-
ally published author/journalist whose book in the
early 1960's, "Nazi War Criminals Among Us," pro-
vided detailed information about 38 known
and suspected war criminals. He has also been called
upon frequently by Congressional committees to testify
about activities of former Nazis now living in
the U.S.).

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Klaus Barbie, the
gestapo "butcher of Lyon," recently extradited
from Bolivia to France on charges of conducting mass
murders and deportations of French Jews and members
of the resistance movement during the Holocaust was
aided in his escape from Europe in late 1949 and early
1950 by the Vatican, the U.S. Army's Counter In-
telligence Corps (CIC) and the International Red
Cross.

This correspondent has pieced together from
various documents, including the State Department's
Barbie's movements since his first utilization by the
CIC in 1947 until his expulsion from Bolivia 36
years later.

Barbie took the so-called "monastery route," an
underground railroad, so to speak, for scores of
wanted Nazi war criminals. The route was known to the
U.S. embassy in Rome which did nothing to stem
the flow of wanted war criminals from Europe, most
of them originating in the American-occupied zone
of Germany.

The northern starting point of the "monastery
route" was in Bavaria and the Austrian frontier,
then dipped south to the Italian Alps, dropping
further south to way-stations leading to exits from the
ports of Genoa or Naples.

Secreted From Monastery To Monastery

My information shows that Barbie, disguised as
a monk, was secreted from monastery to monastery
along the route. He went to Milan and then to
Genoa and from there to Franco Spain, then to
Portugal which was ruled by fascist Premier Antonio
de Oliveira Salazar, and then by ship to Latin America
where his first country of call was Peru, not
Bolivia. There is some evidence indicating that Bar-
bie went first to Argentina.

C corroborations of my findings came dramatically
a week ago from Dr. Erhard Dabringshaus, a 65-year-
old faculty member of Wayne State University in
Detroit, Mich. Dabringshaus served as Barbie's case
officer in the CIC in Germany in 1948. He exclus-
ively told NBC-TV News and the Detroit Free Press
last week that Barbie had been secretly employed as
an informer by the CIC in 1948 for the then astounding
sum of $1,700 a month.

Barbie provided information about other fugi-
tive Nazis then in Europe. Dabringshaus said, con-
firming in detail what the Paris-based Nazi-hunters,
Beate and Serge Klarsfeld had revealed as long
ago as 1972 about Barbie's utilization "by the
American secret service agencies."

The Klarsfelds also cited a 1969 "secret" West
German government report that said: "... the
Barbie family arrived in Bolivia in May 1951
rumour(ed) ... with foreign (Vatican) passports."
On Wednesday, February 9, Italy's largest daily
newspaper, Paese Sera, interviewed Dabringshaus
and asked whether Barbie had escaped by the
"monastery route" of the Vatican.

Dabringshaus said for attribution: "That's right.
How did you know that? He was passed along (by
the American CIC) to the 'monastery route,' prob-
bably disguised as a priest, went down along the
Austrian and Italian Alps, down to Genoa and from
there through Franco Spain and on to safety in Peru."

State Department's 'Top Secret' Document

Further confirmation of the knowing role of the
Vatican in the escape of Barbie -- as well as scores
if not hundreds of other SS genocidists -- came in
a hitherto "Top Secret" 35-page set of State Depart-
ment documents which have come into my possession,
largely by way of my Freedom of Information requests
over the past five years.

It is an internal memorandum classified "Top
Secret" and dated May 14, 1947. Copies are shown
to have been sent to the head of the "American Leg-
atation in Vienna" and to the then U.S. Secretary of
State, five-star General George Catlett Marshall.
The State Department has refused to discuss this re-
port.

The title of the "Top Secret" report is "Illegal
Emigration Movements In and Through Italy."
Its author was Vincent La Vista, an international lawyer
then (1947) military attache to the American embassy
in Rome and already a skilled intelligence/diplomatic
State Department officer.

The "La Vista Report" as it became known in
American intelligence circles, broke down into pre-
cise detail more than 22 permutations of SS Nazi
Party, ethnic collaborators who were knowingly guid-
ed safely through the Vatican's "monastery route."

The "La Vista Report" also noted in detail the names
and political backgrounds of the high-ranking mem-
bers of the Roman Catholic hierarchy who master-
minded the war criminals' escape routes along which
Barbie successfully fled.

The Role Of Msgr. Hudal

One of the termination points before exiting Italy
to the sunnier climes of Latin America was the notorious
pro-fascist cleric, Msgr. Alois Hudal, Bishop of
Elo, resident of Colleio Teutonico da Santa
Maria dell'Anima in Vatican City.

Hudal personally had welcomed many SS escap-
ees. Hudal defied public criticism of a high cleric's
intercession in behalf of wanted Nazi mass murderers.

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"I am neither police nor carabinieri," he said in 1947, "My Christian duty is to save whoever can be saved,"

Hudda's background, address and telephone numbers — along with the fact of his "directing" the escapes from the Munich/Augsburg/Austrian region — are carefully recorded in the documented pages of the "Top Secret" La Vista Report.

Vatican's Role Explained By U.S. Document

The State Department report stated: "The Vatican of course is the largest single organization involved in the illegal movement ... the Vatican's justification for this illegal traffic is simply the propagation of the Faith, The Vatican's desire to infiltrate not only European countries but Latin American countries as well ... with people of all political beliefs as long as they are anti-Communist and pro-Catholic Church."

Referring to yet another, earlier report (dated December 16, 1946), this "Top Secret" document went on to state that "the Vatican at various times and under certain conditions utilize the International Red Cross" to obtain "Red Cross Documents" (or passports) for Nazi escapees.

"The Free Committee of Austria," the State Department's "Communication to the U.S. Secretary of State," said, was "a staunchly anti-Communist group "operating under the protection of the Vatican" and "knowingly used Red Cross passports "sometimes with and sometimes without" the International Red Cross's knowledge.

Barbie Used IRC Passport For His Escape

Barbie, charged with 4,000 murders and 8,000 deportations of French Jewish men, women and children, used an International Red Cross Document (passport) to effectuate his escape from Europe to Latin America, according to investigators.

The State Department's "Top Secret" report referenced an unnamed source in the "Welfare Units" of the Vatican's "Refugee Bureau" who is quoted as having admitted to the U.S. State Department: "There is a definite fear of increasing Communist activities in South America and for this reason(s) persons possessing a Fascist background are favorably considered (for illegal emigration) rather than (those) ... with tainted Communist ideas."

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

BEGIN EXPLAINS WHY HIS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE INQUIRY PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin indicated to the Knesset yesterday that his government accepted the recommendations of the commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre only because Israel is a country that lives by the rule of law.

Heaping praise on outgoing Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and the senior army officers whose ouster the commission called for, Begin said the decision to comply with the recommendations was a very hard one to take. He defended the retention of Sharon in the Cabinet, an issue over which Israeli legal experts are sharply divided.

The Knesset voted 61-56 yesterday to approve the Cabinet changes. Begin will assume the responsibilities of Defense Minister temporarily until his choice for the post, Ambassador Moshe Arens, returns from Washington. Arens' confirmation by the Knesset is a virtual certainty. The Knesset vote also endorsed the decision to keep Sharon on as a Minister-Without-Portfolio.

That decision has been attacked by prominent jurists and sections of the press as a circumvention of the commission's intentions. But Begin cited legal opinion in support of it, notably by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, former Attorney General Moshe Ben-Ze'ev, and a former chairman of the Knesset's Legal Committee, Zerach Warhaftig. (See Feb. 15 Bulletin.)

Begin Demands Apology From Time Magazine

Begin also demanded an apology from Time magazine for publishing a report in its latest edition that an unpublished section of the inquiry commission's findings disclosed that Sharon had encouraged the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon to take revenge on the Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps.

According to Time he did this at a secret meeting with veteran Phalangist leader Pierre Gemayel the day after his younger son, Lebanon's President-elect Bashir Gemayel, was assassinated. Begin said the Time allegation was completely false and that the American news weekly owed Israel an apology.

Meanwhile, two ministers who were absent when the Cabinet voted 16-1 last Thursday to accept the inquiry commission's report, expressed support today for the decision to retain Sharon in the government. Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, a leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing and a political moderate, said it "was acceptable to me." Ehrlich has often been sharply critical of Sharon.

Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman, leader of the ultra rightwing Tehiya party, said that if Sharon had been forced out of the government it would have appeared in Europe and the U.S. to be a victory for outside pressures.

Ehrlich, who returned to Israel last night after undergoing heart surgery in the U.S., praised the Cabinet for accepting the commission's findings. For the Cabinet which appointed the commission to have rejected its recommendations would have been incredible, he said.

Ne'eman, who returned from New York on the same flight as Ehrlich, had no comment on the Commission. An extreme hard-liner who has called for annexation of south Lebanon by Israel, he warned that if the government ever agreed to the withdrawal of Israel's forces from Lebanon, he and his party would consider leaving Begin's coalition.

HADDAD EXTENDS THE AREA CONTROLLED BY HIS MILITIA

By Frank Wundahl

SIDON, Lebanon, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Maj. Saad Haddad, leader of the Israel-backed Christian Free Lebanese Forces, has extended the area controlled by his militia to virtually all of south Lebanon from the Israeli border to the Litani River, an area far larger than the border strip he originally controlled.

At the invitation of the Israeli Defense Force, Haddad held an impromptu press conference in this Lebanese seaport yesterday, the country's fourth largest city, for members of the American Jewish Press Association/United Jewish Appeal mission travelling in Lebanon.