Barbie Called One of Many Ex-Nazis Aided by U.S.

By James Kellen

Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo official, was just one of a number of former Nazis protected by United States agencies in exchange for their knowledge of Soviet activities or other expertise, according to American investigators.

These Germans were used by American intelligence agencies as informants, conscripts or scientists, the investigators say.

"We were very glad he was here because he had a tremendous knowledge about the Soviet Union," Mr. Kennan said. "We brought him here because we were worried that, if we didn't, the Soviets would get him.

Mr. Kennan first met Mr. Hilger while they were serving at their respective embassies in Moscow in the 1950s. Mr. Hilger later returned to Berlin, where he served under Foreign Minister Joachim Ribbentrop.

A 1978 report by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said the C.I.A. had sought assistance from some 22 former Nazis living in the United States after World War II.

The report mentioned payments to an unidentified "senior official of the German Foreign Ministry during the Nazi era," who was a Soviet expert.

Barbara Holtzmen, the Brooklyn District Attorney, who pressed for the prosecution of war criminals while a member of Congress in the 1970s, said that many of the people listed by the G.A.O. had been assisted by Government agencies in avoiding prosecution.

"The Barbie allegations are not new in the sense of the involvement of the U.S. Government with ex-Nazis and war criminals," she said. "It is a world part of this country's past.

Erhard Dehringhaus, a former military intelligence officer who said he had served Mr. Barbie $7,000 a month as an informant, said his superiors were aware of Mr. Barbie's background.

"People were making conscious and knowledgeable decisions based on the political climate at the time," Mr. Mendelsohn of the Wisconsin Center said.

Among some 1,500 Austrian and German scientists brought to the United States during the war, Mr. Allen said, was Walter Schricker, who had been convicted in absentia by a Polish tribunal in the Auschwitz death camp.

Mr. Allen obtained a formerly secret message between the Army Counter Intelligence Corps and Air Force intelligence showing that the authorities had arranged for Mr. Schricker's resettlement in Argentina. Further research showed that he moved to Paraguay in 1953, Mr. Allen said.

Inquiry Into U.S. Role Urged

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 — Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has asked President Reagan in a letter to investigate any role American intelligence agencies might have played in protecting former Nazis.

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