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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20029

STATE FOR EUR/WE AND L/LEI
JUSTICE FOR RYAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: CFED, FR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON CIA INVOLVEMENT IN BARRIE
INVESTIGATION

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

1. (U) FRENCH OPPOSITION DAILY "FIGARO", APPARENTLY RELYING ON MINISTRY OF JUSTICE SOURCES, REPORTS MAY 27 THAT THE "CIA WANTS TO INTERROGATE KLAUS BARBIE." ARTICLE ALLEGES AGENCY HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR AUTHORIZATION TO INTERROGATE BARBIE IN LYON. THE REQUEST, THE ARTICLE STATES, HAS NOT BEEN DENIED, BUT HAS BEEN MADE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS TO WHICH WASHINGTON HAS YET TO ACQUIESCE. TRANSLATION OF RELEVANT SEGMENTS OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS.

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*CI/IMS and
OGC & State Return (Public Affairs) advised FYI.*

FOR COORDINATION WITH

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2. (U) BEGIN TRANSLATION:

THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS TOLD THE CIA THAT ITS AGENTS WILL BE ABLE TO INTERROGATE BARBIE ONLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. THE INTERVIEW WILL CONSIST OF THIRTY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TRANSMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE JUDGE IN CHARGE OF PROSECUTING BARBIE FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.

2. THE INTERVIEW WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING FRENCH CIVIL SERVANT WHO WILL BE ABLE TO INTERVENE IF HE CONSIDERS THE INTERVIEW DEVIATING FROM THE AGREED SUBJECT.

THE AMERICANS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED. THEY PROBABLY HAVE NOT APPRECIATED THE ATTITUDE OF FRENCH AUTHORITIES. THESE CONDITIONS ARE, IN EFFECT, ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN A DOCUMENT SENT BY THE AMERICANS TO THEIR ALLIES WHO, IN 1947, WANTED TO INTERROGATE BARBIE ON HIS GESTAPO ACTIVITIES IN LYON AND WHO HAD BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED CIA AGENT OFFICIALLY OPERATING OUT OF AN OFFICE NEAR AUGSBURG.

AT THAT TIME, THE FRENCH ACCEPTED THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE AMERICANS IN ORDER TO INTERROGATE THE HEAD OF THE GESTAPO IN LYON WHO WAS PROTECTED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY. A REPRESENTATIVE OF MILITARY SECURITY WENT TO GERMANY AND SPOKE WITH BARBIE IN THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICIALS, WHO SPOKE PERFECTLY THE LANGUAGE OF VOLTAIRE.
END TRANSLATION.

3. REST OF ARTICLE GIVES SOME OF BARBIE'S BACKGROUND IN BOLIVIA AND ALLEGES THAT THE CIA WANTS TO INTERROGATE BARBIE IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HIS ROLE IN ILLEGAL DRUG AND ARMS TRAFFIC IN LATIN AMERICA.
MARESCA

END OF MESSAGE

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