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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, FR
SUBJECT: UPROAR OVER US SOURCED ALLEGATIONS THAT FATHER
- OF FORMER FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER
- FRANCOIS-PONCET MAY HAVE HELPED KLAUS BARBIE
- ESCAPE TO SOUTH AMERICA

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} State

1. SUMMARY: JUST BEFORE THE OPENING OF KLAUS BARBIE'S TRIAL THIS WEEK, THE GERMAN PERIODICAL "STERN" PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE SIGNED BY JOHN LOFTUS, DESCRIBED AS AN AMERICAN EXPERT FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING ALLEGED NAZIS AT THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. AS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY IN THE FRENCH PRESS, IN THIS ARTICLE MR. LOFTUS INSINUATES THAT, AS FAR BACK AS 1943, LYON GESTAPO CHIEF KLAUS BARBIE KNEW ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET (THE FATHER OF JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET), FORMER FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY AND ITALY, AND THAT FRANCOIS-PONCET MAY HAVE FACILITATED BARBIE'S ESCAPE TO LATIN AMERICA. HIS SON, FORMER FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

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JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET, HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS OUTRAGE AND DENYING THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE LOFTUS ARTICLE.

2. IN A MAY 13 INTERVIEW WITH SOCIALIST DAILY "LE MATIN," LOFTUS FORCEFULLY REPEATS HIS ACCUSATIONS AND SAYS HE WOULD TESTIFY AT THE BARBIE TRIAL AND SUBSTANTIATE HIS ALLEGATIONS IF CALLED AS A WITNESS. GIVEN JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET'S PROMINENT ROLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THIS INCIDENT IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE.

THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET

3. ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET, WHO DIED IN 1978, PLAYED A PROMINENT PART IN FRANCE'S POLITICS. ACCORDING TO "LE MONDE," ALTHOUGH HE WAS A GERMANOPHILE FRANCOIS-PONCET WAS DETESTED BY HITLER. FRANCOIS-PONCET WAS AMBASSADOR TO BERLIN FROM 1931 TO 1938, THEN TO ROME FROM 1938 TO 1940. IN 1949, HE BECAME FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN OCCUPIED GERMANY THEN AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FROM 1953 TO 1955.

4. ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS BY MR. LOFTUS REPORTED IN THE GERMAN MAGAZINE "STERN," **KLAUS BARBIE** WORKED AFTER THE WAR FOR THE ALLIED THEN BRITISH SECRET SERVICES, BUT QUICKLY LEFT THEM TO JOIN THE ORGANIZATION "GEHLEN" THAT BECAME THE WEST GERMAN SECRET SERVICE WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICANS. MR. LOFTUS IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT SOME FRENCH POLITICAL FIGURES WHO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FRANCE AFTER THE WAR WERE AFRAID OF WHAT BARBIE MIGHT KNOW. AMONG THEM, MR. LOFTUS NAMED ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET.

5. ACCORDING TO LOFTUS, FRANCOIS-PONCET, TOGETHER WITH FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENT ALBERT LEBRUN, WAS ARRESTED BY **KLAUS BARBIE** IN AUGUST 1943 AND DEPORTED TO GERMANY. THE STERN ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THEY WERE AMONG THE SMALL NUMBER OF FRENCH WHO WERE WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE TWO SECRET ANTICOMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS: "TECHNICA" AND "INTERMARIUM." TECHNICA WAS A FRENCH MILITARY SECRET SERVICES OPERATION AND INTERMARIUM WAS ONE OF THE OLDEST INTERNATIONAL ANTICOMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN IMPORTANT NETWORK IN EUROPE, SECRETLY SUPPORTED BY THE VATICAN AND THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES.

6. FINALLY, THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT THE FALSE PASSPORTS THAT ENABLED **KLAUS BARBIE** AND OTHER NAZI CRIMINALS TO ESCAPE WERE GIVEN TO THEM BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WHOSE PRESIDENT AT THAT TIME WAS ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET.

HIS SON'S REFUTATION OF THESE ALLEGATIONS

7. ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET'S SON, JEAN, HIMSELF A FORMER MINISTER AND CURRENTLY SENATOR OF LOT-ET-GARONNE ISSUED

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A WIDELY PUBLISHED FORMAL DENIAL THAT HIS FATHER HAD ANY CONTACT WITH **KLAUS BARBIE**. FOLLOWING ARE SOME EXCERPTS:

" - THE ALLEGATIONS PUBLISHED BY THE MAGAZINE STERN CONCERNING MY FATHER'S RELATIONS WITH **KLAUS BARBIE** ARE FABRICATIONS. THE FACT THAT THEY ARE REVEALED BY A FORMER AGENT OF THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES DOES NOT GIVE THEM ANY CREDIBILITY.

- MY FATHER WAS ARRESTED ON AUGUST 27, 1943, AT THE SAME

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SUBJECT: UPROAR OVER US SOURCED ALLEGATIONS THAT FATHER TIME AS ALBERT LEBRUN, IN GRENOBLE, WHERE HE WAS LIVING BECAUSE THE OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES FORBADE HIM TO RETURN TO PARIS.

- MY FATHER WAS ARRESTED IN ORDER TO PREVENT HIM FROM LEAVING FRANCE; HE DID NOT KNOW WHO ARRESTED HIM, AND WAS INTERROGATED AFTER HIS ARREST ABOUT HOW HIS ELDEST SON LEFT FRANCE IN ORDER TO ELUDE THE STO (MANDATORY WORK SERVICE IN NAZI GERMANY.)

- MY FATHER NEVER HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE MENTIONED ORGANIZATIONS TECHNICA AND INTERMARIUM.

- THE STERN ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT, AS PRESIDENT OF THE RED CROSS, MY FATHER ISSUED A FALSE PASSPORT TO BARBIE. BUT BARBIE LEFT GERMANY IN APRIL 1951, AND MY FATHER, WHO WAS HIGH COMMISSIONER THEN AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY UNTIL 1955, ONLY BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE RED CROSS IN 1955, THEREFORE FOUR YEARS LATER.

8. LE MONDE, IN CARRYING THESE REPORTS, NOTES THAT JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET'S STATEMENT REQUIRES A "SLIGHT CORRECTION." ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET BECAME VICE PRESIDENT THEN PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH RED CROSS IN 1955 (UNTIL 1967), HE WAS NEVERTHELESS PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS FROM 1949 TO 1968.

SERGE KLARSFELD DEFENDS FRANCOIS-PONCET

9. FAMED NAZI-HUNTER SERGE KLARSFELD, WHO IS ALSO AN ATTORNEY FOR SOME OF THE "PARTIES CIVILES" IN THE BARBIE TRIAL, SPRUNG TO THE DEFENSE OF ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET. HE STATED THAT " CONTRARY TO CERTAIN STUPID AND ODIUS ALLEGATIONS, ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET NEVER CEASED TO INTERVENE IN ORDER TO GET BARBIE EXTRADITED FROM THE AMERICAN ZONE IN GERMANY... IT WAS HE WHO CONSTANTLY ALERTED THE FRENCH LEADERSHIP TO THE DANGER OF HITLER AND WHO, NEVER CONFUSING THE GERMAN PEOPLE WITH NAZISM,

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MADE AN EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW GERMAN DEMOCRACY AFTER 1945."

LOFTUS REPEATS HIS ACCUSATIONS IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "LE MATIN"

10. IN A MAY 13 INTERVIEW IN THE SOCIALIST DAILY, "LE MATIN," MR. LOFTUS REPEATS HIS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET AND CLAIMS TO HOLD TWO AMERICAN SECRET DOCUMENTS DATING FROM 1949 AND 1950 WHICH INDICATE THAT BARBIE INTERROGATED ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET AFTER ARRESTING HIM ON AUGUST 27, 1943. LOFTUS SAYS THAT BARBIE INTERROGATED FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENT LEBRUN AS WELL AS OTHER FRENCHMEN IN HIGH POSITIONS. MR. LOFTUS ADMITS THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET TOLD THE GERMANS, BUT SAYS THAT "THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES FELT THAT BARBIE COULD HAVE BLACKMAILED ANDRE FRANCOIS-PONCET FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE." LOFTUS SUGGESTS THAT THE FRENCH PROTECTED BARBIE BECAUSE HE KNEW TOO MANY THINGS, INCLUDING THAT THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES GAVE BARBIE ACCESS TO THEIR DOCUMENTS ON COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE.

11. MR. LOFTUS DECLARES THAT HE WOULD TESTIFY DURING THE LYON TRIAL IF ASKED TO DO SO, AND WOULD SHOW HIS SECRET DOCUMENTS, BUT SAYS THAT HE "DOUBTS THE GOV REALLY WANTS TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, AND DOUBTS THAT HE WILL BE ASKED TO TESTIFY."

12. FINALLY, LOFTUS REMARKS THAT HE DOES NOT THINK THAT BARBIE WILL REVEAL THE NAMES OF THE COMMUNISTS IN THE RESISTANCE WHO WERE ALSO DOUBLE AGENTS FOR THE GESTAPO. LOFTUS INSINUATES THAT BARBIE'S LAWYER JACQUES VERGES MIGHT STILL BE A COMMUNIST AGENT, AND THAT HE COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO REPRESENT BARBIE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE PROTECTED.

COMMENT

11. AS THE BARBIE TRIAL OPENS, AMID CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND SPECULATION THAT IT WILL BECOME THE TRIAL OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE AS MUCH AS OF A NAZI GESTAPO LEADER, THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ANDRE FRANCOIS PONCET HAVE HIT A VERY SENSITIVE NERVE IN FRANCE. THE LOFTUS INTERVIEWS HAVE ATTRACTED ENORMOUS PRESS ATTENTION.

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WHO IS NO LONGER ALIVE TO DEFEND HIS HONOR, TO QUEASINESS AT THE THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE SOMETHING TO LOFTUS' ALLEGATIONS.

12. FRANCOIS-PONCET'S SON, JEAN, IS A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER WHO REMAINS A PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL FORCE, PARTICULARLY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (HE IS A KEY FIGURE IN THE FORMATION OF THE CENTER-RIGHT UDF'S FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS.) THE COMBINATION OF THE TWO HAS INCREASED THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO LOFTUS' "REVELATIONS." JEAN FRANCOIS-PONCET, A PRICKLY PERSON ON SUBSTANCE AT THE BEST OF TIMES, IS NOT LIKELY TO BE MADE MORE FORTHCOMING BY THIS INCIDENT, WHOSE REPERCUSSIONS REMAIN UNCLEAR.
RODGERS##

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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