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## U.S. Gives Ex-Nazis a Security Blanket

More than a year ago I broke the story of "Operation Paperclip," the controversial program that brought known Nazis and suspected war criminals to this country with official blessing after World War II. Scientists and others with supposedly valuable intelligence information were allowed to settle in the United States despite their Nazi past and with the blessing of the CIA and the State Department.

The Nazi fugitives have long since outlived any usefulness they might have had, but they're still secure in their American hideouts. And because the government knew of their Nazi background, they can't be deported for failing to reveal it when they entered this country.

The unsolved case of Tschirim Soobzokov is a troubling example. According to a classified State Department document, the black-haired, ruddy-faced Soobzokov was born in Russia, served as a lieutenant in the Red Army and deserted to the Germans in 1943. He joined a Nazi-sponsored "North Caucasian Volunteer Battalion" and rose to the rank of captain in the SS. After the war, he made his way to Jordan and was cleared for immigration to the United States in 1953.

The loquacious Soobzokov, who looks much younger than his 63 years, has been accused of brutality and extortion during World War II. What's worse, there were allegations that he

continued his criminal activities after he came to this country. Yet Soobzokov has done well. A resident of Paterson, N.J., he was until recently employed by the Passaic County government.

The astonishing thing is that Soobzokov makes no attempt to deny his past. He doesn't have to. He can't be deported or prosecuted for his alleged connections to the Third Reich because he didn't lie about it when the State Department brought him here. And the allegations of brutality and extortion can't be proven.

So Soobzokov, whose home has been picketed by Jewish activists, is free to stay in this country. The Justice Department's chief Nazi hunter, Allan Ryan, dropped the case against the feisty suspect in January.

Speaking in a heavy East European accent, Soobzokov told my associate Bill Gruver that the SS unit he was attached to was a "shadow" outfit that existed only on paper. The Nazi allegations are "unproven lies," said Soobzokov, who claimed to be one of the most investigated men in the United States.