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Papers fixed for Nazis, report says

United Press International

CHICAGO — American intelligence officials brought Nazi scientists to the United States over the objections of the State Department by altering dossiers, according to declassified documents published in a magazine yesterday.

Projects code-named Overcast and Project Paperclip enabled Wernher von Braun, who later headed the American space program, and more than 700 other rocket experts and scientists to enter the country between 1945 and 1955, according to the April issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

The article, based on recently declassified government documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, said American authorities knew that some of the scientists had been involved in Nazi atrocities.

President Harry S. Truman had ordered that active Nazi supporters or party members be barred from programs to recruit German scientists. But, according to the article, officials of the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff changed dossiers of people they wanted to recruit to circumvent possible objections.

The program, which hired 765 scientists and other specialists from 1945 and 1955, was designed to take advantage of German and Austrian expertise and to prevent the remilitarization of Germany.

The article did not say how many Nazis entered the United States using altered records.

Von Braun, developer of the V-2 rocket and a major in the Nazi SS, was considered a potential security threat but American military officials had that status revised, according to documents cited in the article. He died in 1977.

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Some of the declassified documents showed that when the military governor's office in Germany rated a desired scientist unfavorably, military officials were instructed not to pass those reports on. Instead, the European Command was asked to revise the status of these scientists to make immigration possible.

Among those who entered the United States because of a changed dossier, said the report, was Arthur Rudolph, who became a top NASA manager. But he returned to West Germany last year and surrendered his citizenship rather than contest charges that he oversaw a Nazi slave labor camp where many workers died.

The magazine is published in Chicago by the Educational Foundation of Nuclear Science.