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Eichmann, Snared in Argentina, Went to Israel of Own Free Will

From News Dispatches

BUENOS AIRES, June 6—The Israeli government has officially admitted that accused Nazi mass murderer Adolf Eichmann was tracked down in Argentina but it denied that he was kidnaped by Israeli secret agents, it was disclosed today in an Israeli note.

Israel claimed Eichmann agreed to leave Argentina with a group of "Jewish volunteers" to go to Israel to face a court.

Israel gave its version of the capture of Eichmann, who has been accused of murdering six million Jews during the Hitler regime, in a note delivered to the Argentine foreign ministry.

Following persistent reports that Eichmann had been "kidnaped" from Argentina and whisked off to Israel, the Argentine Government had requested an explanation from the government of Premier David Ben-Gurion.

Used Forged Papers

The note said that Eichmann was discovered living in Argentina under an assumed name and with forged identity papers by Jewish volunteers after a 15-year search through Europe, the Arab countries and Latin America.

It said the Jewish volunteers first contacted Eichmann and asked him if he was ready to stand trial in Israel with all legal guarantees. It said Eichmann asked for 24 hours to think it over and then agreed to leave Argentina.

The note said the group took Eichmann out of Argentina and delivered him to members of the Israeli Security Organization.

Ben-Gurion announced the capture of Eichmann to a surprised Parliament — and world — on May 23. But until

today, details of his apprehension were kept secret.

There had been various reports that he was spirited out of Argentina aboard an official Israeli airliner or by submarine.

Reports here said that Eichmann was living with his wife and three children in nearby San Fernando. Neighbors said Mrs. Eichmann and the children moved out last week. Their present whereabouts are not known.

The Israeli note also included the transcript of a letter Eichmann allegedly wrote to the Jewish group of volunteers, declaring he was ready to leave for Israel "to be taken before a competent court."

The transcript further quoted Eichmann as saying he wished to disclose before the court "the plain, unadorned facts of my last years of official services for Germany so the statement may be transmitted to future generations."

Eichmann also was quoted as saying that his decision to face an Israeli court was taken freely and added that he was not promised any rewards nor was he acting under threats.

Eichmann said he made the decision "to gain inner peace," according to the transcript.

Israel Did Not Know

The note said the Israeli Government did not know that Eichmann had been hiding out in Argentina. Neither did it know any details of his capture until the Argentine Government requested a report, the note said.

An investigation then was carried out, the note said, which disclosed, among other things, that immediately after the end of World War II "Jewish volunteers" began hunting for Eichmann.

"Several" months ago, the group received information

that Eichmann was residing in Argentina without the knowledge of Argentine authorities since he had false documents. It said the Jewish volunteers tracked Eichmann down to his home and confronted him.

But the note did not disclose when or how Eichmann left Argentina, nor when and where he was turned over to the Israeli Security Organization.

The note said Israel expressed its regret if the agents violated Argentina's laws or sovereignty.

It urged Argentina to take into account, however, "the extraordinary significance which surrounds the fact there has been brought to justice a man who was responsible for the assassination of millions of persons belonging to the Jewish race."

Text of Eichmann Note

Following is the text of the letter Israel said Eichmann wrote:

"I the below-signed Adolph Eichmann, declare of my own will: Since my true identity is known, I realize that it makes no sense to try to continue hiding from justice. I declare that I am disposed to travel to Israel to present myself there before a competent tribunal.

"I understand that I will receive legal help and I will do all possible to express without adornment of facts my last years of service in Germany in order that the true picture of fact may be transmitted to future generations. I make this declaration by my own will. I have not been promised anything, nor have I been threatened.

"I wish to attain at last my internal peace. Since I cannot recall all the details and because I also may have confused some things, I ask that I be helped by putting at my disposition documents and testimonies in my determination to find the truth."