

# DISPATCH

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PROCESSING ACTION

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TO

Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

INFO

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FROM

Chief of Station

C/S

MACROFILM

SUBJECT

Joseph Mengele, Nazi War Criminal

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCE

Action Required: FYI

1. Attached herewith is a memorandum concerning Joseph <sup>1611201</sup> M E N G E L E, a Nazi War Criminal, who has been hiding in Paraguay for the past twenty years.

2. Mr. Robert T R O S T L E, a stringer for the Chicago Daily News and the New York Times, is preparing some news articles on Mengele. Embassy Officials are alerting their Headquarters in Washington to possible damage; effects of the articles towards Paraguay's image abroad.

Attachment:  
Memorandum h/w

Distribution:  
3 - C/WHD w att. h/w  
2 - Station Files

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CROSS REFERENCE TO

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER

DATE

NYAA-03531

10 June 1974

CLASSIFICATION

NWS FILE NUMBER

SECRET

57-500

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7 June 1974

4P

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Results of Debriefings of Robert Trostle  
Concerning Josef Mengele

1. At about 1400 hours on 4 June, Mr. Peter Jacoby *USIB* invited me to participate in a debriefing session with Mr. Robert Trostle, a stringer for the Chicago Daily News. Trostle had been attempting to determine the whereabouts of Joseph Mengele, the former Nazi doctor who had been in charge of the medical set up in Auschwitz. Trostle had spoken to the German Ambassador Von Sothen in an attempt to determine Mengele's present location in Paraguay. The German Ambassador did not have any recent specific information and gave the implication that they would just as soon not actively attempt to find Mengele. He did say that a former German soldier by the name of Federichi had been beaten to death last year by Israel terrorists who thought he was Mengele. Federichi's wife lost portions of one of her ears and her stomach was cut open as a result of the beating. She survived the attempt and apparently wrote a letter to the German Ambassador requesting a pension as the result of her husband being a former soldier. These people were well known to the local Paraguayan inhabitants. They came from East Prussia at the end of WW II in an attempt to get away from political activities.

2. Trostle, on the basis of the recommendation of Ambassador Landau, went to the Tirol Hotel near Encarnacion and spoke to the manager, Armando Reynerats, a former Belgium citizen and pro-Nazi who reportedly knew Mengele very well. Reynerats said that the last time he saw Mengele was in 1970. Mengele had been a frequent guest and visitor and had resided in the nearby German community called Hohenau on a farm owned by Alvin Krugg. Reynerats said that Mengele was a nice person, that he had provided medical assistance to many people at no charge; that Mengele most frequently played a card

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game called Scat; that he never talked politics but would frequently visit the hotel. He stayed there overnight on four or five different occasions. Reynerats recommended that Trostle speak to Pastor Held, a German minister who lived in Hohenau since 1970 and who had known Mengele well. When Trostle spoke to Pastor Held, he initially said that he had never heard or knew of Mengele. Pastor Held asked Trostle who had sent him and when Trostle mentioned the name, Reynerats, Pastor Held then confessed that Mengele had lived there. He said that he was afraid of revealing the details to a stranger. Pastor Held recommended that Trostle speak to Ewald Krugg and said that he could provide more details on Mengele. When Trostle spoke to Krugg, Krugg admitted that he was a Nazi and was awaiting the rebirth of the Nazi Party of Latin America. At first he refused to admit that Mengele had been at his house, then later admitted that he could contact Mengele, if needed. Krugg said that he had provided details to two German magazines about two years ago, and that later a Paraguayan identifying himself as President Stroessner's private secretary came to his house and advised him he had better keep his mouth shut on this matter and not to release any further data. Krugg said that Mengele still comes around, but that he has his protectors (body guards).

3. Dr. Miguel Angel Bestard, Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior, gave Trostle the names of two people who might be able to help him. The first was Dr. Guillermo Heike, the Consul for Finland and a practicing dentist. Heike also admitted to being a Nazi. According to Bestard, Heike was Mengele's dentist. Heike said that he had never been Mengele's dentist, but then immediately discussed in detail Mengele's teeth. He later admitted to having changed Mengele's teeth. Heike said there were two people who could provide details on Mengele. The first, Werner Jung, President of the Paraguayan Nazi Party, an adamant Nazi who was forced to leave Paraguay and now lives in Barcelona, Spain. He was an intimate friend of Mengele. The second was Otto Biss, a medical doctor who formerly served in the medical corps of the German Army as a doctor. Trostle described Biss as an elderly man who knew Mengele well and as the only medical doctor in Paraguay who had extensive contact with Mengele on a professional basis. According to Biss, he was called in as a consultant on a medical case approximately six years ago (circa 1968) because Martin Bormann was then living with Mengele and was seriously ill. Biss said that he had personally treated Bormann and implied that Bormann was still in Paraguay and still required medical treatment for his illness. Biss said that Mengele is here in Paraguay and that he would think about providing Trostle with research data. Biss said that Mengele had undergone plastic surgery, and that he looks much younger than his age. Biss asked if Trostle had seen

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Cesar Agosto SONABRIG who was Mengele's attorney in Asuncion. Sonabrig was the second name that Bestard had recommended to Trostle because Sonabrig was Mengele's lawyer when Mengele applied for citizenship. He resides at 1065 F. R. Moreno in Asuncion (Fulgencio R. Moreno #507 is reportedly a house in which Mengele lives.) The house apparently was well secured and guarded by what Trostle called "armed heavies." When Sonabrig spoke to Trostle, he said that he had only met Mengele on one occasion when he had to prepare his brief for the supreme court on his request for citizenship. He described this as only a professional occurrence, and that they did not speak of politics. Sonabrig did not admit to having any recent contacts with Mengele.

4. Robert Thompson, the ABC newspaperman, has done a lot of investigative work on the Mengele case. Somehow he was able to come up with the police file on Mengele. In the file he has Mengele's passport application, the passport number, the identity card which was issued to Mengele in 1959, the papers for obtaining citizenship, and a certificate for good conduct for the past five years (issued in 1959). The interesting part is that Jung certified and swore on the behalf of Mengele and gave Mengele's address as Jung's own residence. Mengele apparently had married a woman named Martha Maria Will. In the passport application, Mengele gave the wrong name for his mother (his matronym) or at least gave the wrong one which Trostle had from the German archives. Trostle said this might have been in an attempt to use the matronym in his passport for travel so that he wouldn't have to travel under the name of Mengele. Mengele has received several Paraguayan passports, the most recent application was last year--1973. Trostle said that a one-year old photo of Mengele is in the passport files which is located in the police department.

5. According to Trostle, a source whom he has in the Paraguayan government whom he declined to identify, gave him a rather cryptic message. The source said that it would be very interesting to find out who is actually residing at a home in Hohenau which is listed to a person named "A. Wanderer" with telephone No. 6. The government source implied that this might be Mengele's residence. Most important of all is the fact that Trostle claims Dr. Bestard admitted to him that Mengele is still in Paraguay.

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NOTES which may be of interest:

Name Alfred ENSTEIN also appears as witness for citizenship

Mengele, from 1954 to 1959, lived in Argentina. First arrived in Paraguay in 1951. Moved between Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

Father - Karl Mengele  
Mother - Walburga Hupfauer

1957 travelled to Germany

11 August 1962 - German Embassy started extradition procedures. In November 1962 issued orders for his arrest. On 16 November 1970 again issued orders for his arrest. (Judge Manuel Antonio Perez Dominguez.)

Has worked as a representative for West German firm selling farm machinery.

Obtained Paraguayan citizenship on 27 November 1959.

In 1960 Israeli agents were looking for Mengele and he left Paraguay for Brazil.