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DOR-01836

13 JUN 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chief, FPL Group

ATTENTION:

FPL Group

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT:

OGC Trace Request: Department of Justice - Dr. Josef Mengele (C)

REFERENCE:

OGC 85-51511 dated 16 May 1985 via FPLG 2-Way Memo dated 29 May 1985

1. An extensive search of the files and indices of the Directorate of Operations surfaced a [ ] personality file on one Theodor Binder who is identical to Dr. Theodore Binder. (S)

A. There is one reference to Dr. Josef Mengele in Dr. Binder's [ ] file. This reference appeared in an attachment to a 29 April 1965 Department of State memorandum written to the U.S. Secret Service which dealt with counterfeit U.S. currency in Peru. The following is the Mengele excerpt from this memorandum:

"...Otto Steft Senior was one of the officers that along with Fritz Knochlein murdered British soldiers of the Norfolk Regiment who surrendered at hamlet of de Paradis ("Paradis Massacre"). Knochlein was tried by British Military Court in 1948, was sentenced to death. But Steft escaped. He is now messenger for ODESSA in South America. Has plates for American dollars. At present is in Brazil due to leave for Paraguay on December 8, 1964. Is rumored he killed (illegible) agent few

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months ago on the Peruvian-Brazilian border. Has been seen with Dr. Josef Mengele. Last time officially seen at Rio de la Plata on April 18, 1962 in the company of Federico Schwend and Josef Mengele." (C)

B. In April 1964, Dr. Binder was registered to the [ ] and later terminated without prejudice (date unknown). At the time of registration, Dr. Binder was located in Pucallpa, Peru, and employed at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital. (S)

C. In April 1965, Dr. Binder is referred to as follows in an attachment to the Department of State memorandum written to the U.S. Secret Service regarding counterfeit U.S. currency in Peru:

"The case of Dr. Theodore Binder who is also a member of the ODESSA Organization and suspected as being its main contact in the Peruvian jungles...."

"...It is proven that Dr. Binder entered Peru with a false passport along with his wife...."

"...Dr. Binder was a member of the Hitler Youth Group, never studied to be a doctor and served in the German Army from 1941-45, when he escaped to Zurich, Switzerland." (C)

D. An undated notation in Dr. Binder's [ ] file reads: "Re Theodore Binder - Member of FI Staff spoke with Army rep over telephone at Fort Belvoir 5 Oct. Army rep said Binder never used by Army because at the time they were considering his use, they assessed the situation in the Peruvian govt (sic) and decided it not suitable to use Subject. Army rep could not give more details over telephone." (U)

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E. Paragraph D above may be connected with the following 1970 incident: In October 1970, a Memorandum for the Record was written regarding a meeting with the then Chief, WH/CA [redacted] and Enno Hobbing, the Executive Director of the Council on Latin America, a U.S. business group headquartered in New York. This meeting took place to discuss a reported coup possibility in Peru. The source of this information was Dr. Binder who was described in the memorandum as a German national who headed the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Pucallpa, Peru, a predominantly Indian area. Hobbing stated that he had known Dr. Binder for several years, thought highly of him, and felt he was using Hobbing as a channel for "appropriate contacts in Washington." Dr. Binder could be reached at that time c/o Dr. Max Roth, Freiestrasse 8Z, 4000 Basel, Switzerland. The comment at the end of the memorandum reads:

"The initial readout on Mr. Hobbing's friend Binder would seem to counsel against contacting him in Europe. It might be that [redacted] could see (in a low-key fashion) if his life pattern and contacts in Peru would make him worth considering as an independent source on the military. We should not, however, allow him to get the impression that we are interested in having him act for us as a "coup sponsor." (S)

F. The following undated biographic information appeared in Dr. Binder's file: "From Central Reference - Dr. Theodore Binder. Born about 1919 or 1920 in Loerrach, Germany, is organist and physician; inspired by Albert Schweitzer he studied medicine, philosophy and ethnology and decided to devote his life to the Indians in Latin America. He and wife went to Peru in 1948 and apparently have been there since. His German medical degrees not recognized in Peru so he had to study medicine over again. Established the hospital about January 1960. In late 1964 a Berlin medical publication reported following a visit to Binder by an unspecified person, that Binder was ruling his hospital practically as an absolute monarch, the hospital was like a prison, instruments dirty, medicine spoiled, Binder taking kickbacks from hospital employees and charging fees for medicines which had been donated. Binder sued the publication -- other articles appeared about his innocence etc. Nothing further on him since then." (U)

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2. Dr. Binder is also possibly identifiable with the following individuals:

A. Our search surfaced two documents on "Theo Binder" (DPOB and nationality unknown). Theo Binder, which could either be a true name or an alias, was described as a journalist who was "inserted" in the early to mid-1950's by GRAGLET (possibly the then Austrian Service) into a British-controlled double agent case against the KGB during the mid-1950's in Austria. This case concerned Peter Kharkavoy, the Subject of [redacted] who is encrypted with an SE diagraph. There is insufficient identifying data in [redacted] to ascertain if Theo Binder and Dr. Binder are identical. For the record, the identity of GRAGLET was not found by IMS/SIS, EUR/SAA, or EUR/REG.

B. One Theodor Binder (DPOB unknown), who, as of April 1945, was a member of the underground organization Anti-Faschistisches Osterreich, a monarchist group with headquarters in Klagenfurt, Austria. (S)

3. An extensive search of the files and indices of the DO surfaced the following information which probably identifies Walter Juan Branaa-Faccio. In February 1971 [redacted] reported that the Government of Uruguay planned negotiations with the USSR on the details and implementation of a twenty million dollar bilateral trade agreement between the two countries. One Walter Brana (DPOB unknown) of Curtiembre Brana was one of a fourteen-member private Uruguayan delegation that was planning to travel to the USSR for these negotiations. (S)

4. Our search surfaced the following information which may or may not identify Fritz Steinacker:

A. In 1954, one fnu Steinacker (DPOB unknown), an engineer, worked at the IFA Works in Chemnitz, East Germany, a transportation center renamed Karl-Marx-Stadt in 1953. (S)

B. DIRECTOR-329634 dated 9 April 1985, written by C/CI/CLFL [redacted] reported the following: "...Fritz Steinacker, Mengele's lawyer, knows where Mengele is. Steinacker is reported to have told the Germans that he will tell them when Mengele dies...." (S)

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C. [ ] 17338 dated 15 April 1985, in response to paragraph B above, reported the following: "...As for Fritz Steinacker, CADOME/6 (D/6) says he is a reputable Frankfurt attorney who has been involved in defending right-wing extremists since the 1950's. D/6 dealt with him personally when Steinacker defended a Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorist some years back. D/6 says he is a very level-headed man and the type one would choose to help 'go and steal horses' (a German expression for describing someone you can get along with and who can be trusted). The only negative comment D/6 had to make about Steinacker is that at the conclusion of one trial in which he had been defending an RAF terrorist, Steinacker acted in the same manner as well-known leftist lawyers of the type who sympathize with the RAF. This seemed to D/6 to be out of character for Steinacker. According to D/6, Steinacker is the executor of Mengele's estate in Germany and manages some property in Frankfurt which is owned by Mengele...." (S)

5. An extensive search of the files and indices of the DO surfaced no information concerning the following:

Rudolf Johannes Faller  
Curtiembres Branaa, Ltd.  
Binder Schweitzer Foundation aka Albert  
Schweitzer Foundation  
Malte Wieland Dollinger  
Hospital Mazahna Albert Schweitzer  
Hospital Amazomico Albert Schweitzer(U)

6. According to information provided to this Directorate by DDA/IPD dated 14 May 1985, there is no indication that any of the individuals of your request have ever been the subjects of an FOIA/PA request. (U)

[ ] (S)

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OG/EIB/A: [redacted] (12 June 1985)  
BASED ON: [redacted] AND [redacted]  
FILE IN; 100-139- [redacted] ; X-REF [redacted] ND [redacted]

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