

S E C R E T

XAN 1178  
18 July 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: [Assistant General Counsel]  
FROM: [ ] (C)  
Non-Disclosure Litigation Officer  
DO/IMS/FOIA, Privacy & Litigation Group  
SUBJECT: OGC Trace Request: Department of Justice -  
Dr. Joseph Mengele  
REFERENCE: OGC-85-51511 dated 16 May 1985

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

A. There is one reference to Dr. Joseph 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 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)

COORDINATION WITH State, Army, DoJ

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B. In April 1964, Dr. Binder was registered to the [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 DO 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)

E. Paragraph D above may be connected with the following 1970 incident: In October 1970, a meeting was held between a DO case officer and a source to discuss a reported coup possibility in Peru. This information was obtained from Dr. Binder, who was described as a German national who headed the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Pucallpa, Peru. Source stated that he had known Dr. Binder for several years and thought highly of him. At that time Dr. Binder could be reached at Dr. Max Roth, Freiestrasse 8Z, 4000 Basil, Switzerland. (C)

F. The following undated biographic information appeared in Dr. Binder's file: - 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

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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)

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

A. Two documents were surfaced on "Theo Binder" (DPOB and nationality unknown). Theo Binder, which could either be a true name or an alias, was described as a journalist.

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. (C)

3. Information was surfaced which probably identifies Walter Juan Branaa-Faccio. In February 1971 it was reported that the Government of Uruguay planned negotiations with the USSR on the details and implementation of a 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. Information dated 9 April 1985 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)

C. Information dated 15 April 1985, reported the following: "...As for Fritz Steinacker, source says he is a reputable Frankfurt attorney who has been involved in defending

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right-wing extremists since the 1950's. Source dealt with him personally when Steinacker defended a Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorist some years back. Source 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 source 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 source to be out of character for Steinacker. According to source 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)



The above information may not be passed to the Department of Justice without prior coordination with this office.

ATTACHMENT # 1:

DOR-1836 DATED 13 JUN 85  
OGC-85-51511 DATED 16 MAY 85  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE MEMO DATED 30 APR 85

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