

9 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Inquiry Concerning UN Secretary General Waldheim

1. A review of the pertinent files, both within the Office of Central Reference and the Directorate of Operations, has uncovered no information that would confirm the allegation that Secretary General Waldheim was ever a member of the Nazi youth movement. Nor was there any suggestion that he might have been involved in the slaughter of Soviet Jews. (S)

2. One source which described Waldheim as an "intensely patriotic" youth, indicated that he volunteered for service in the Austrian Army in 1936 following his graduation from high school; he served for less than a full year in a dragoon regiment and withdrew from military service with a rank equivalent to corporal. He enrolled in the Vienna Consular Academy in 1937 to prepare for a career as a diplomat. In March of the following year, Adolf Hitler's forces marched into Austria to carry out the Anschluss—the unification of the two German-speaking states. Waldheim's father was briefly imprisoned by the Nazi regime, but was later released. (U)

3. Upon the outbreak of war in 1939, Waldheim was drafted into the German Army (Wehrmacht). He served as a staff intelligence officer (Aufklaerungsoffizier) with the rank of lieutenant, assigned to the 45th Infantry Division. This division saw action in the Polish campaign (September 1939) and the assault on France (May 1940). It returned to the east in June 1941 to take part in the invasion of Russia. Waldheim's service with this division ended in 1941, after he received a leg wound in fighting on the Eastern Front. There is nothing to suggest that while in this unit Waldheim participated either directly or indirectly in the anti-Jewish/anti-partisan activities of the German extermination teams. (S)

4. Waldheim's recuperation required almost a year; he was discharged from military duties following his recovery, and returned to the study of law in Vienna. He received his doctorate in law in 1944 and the next year began his diplomatic career in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. (U)

5. The allegation that Waldheim was once a Nazi has been made before. The Directorate of Operations officer with whom this inquiry was coordinated stated that earlier researches into the question, and in particular a check of Nazi Party records held at

ORIGINAL CL BY [013787]  
 DECL  REVW ON 9 March 2001  
EXT BYND 6 YRS BY [013787]  
REASON CGB 3, 7

SECRET

**SUBJECT:** Inquiry Concerning UN Secretary General Waldheim

the Berlin Documents Center, have failed to establish any association of Waldheim with the National Socialist Party. Furthermore, the fact that he has enjoyed a public career of some 35 years without having been "exposed" by any individual or group with anti-Nazi sentiment, suggests that such an allegation has no basis in fact. (S)

6. Copies of documents concerning Waldheim's military service and his activities during the period 1939-45 are available in our files should further questions arise. If further information is needed, please call [redacted] (U)

OCR/EUR/NE 35-6486

