

20 May 1994
DOR-03886

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Office of the Director
Executive Secretariat

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2007

VIA:

[SA/DDO]

VIA:

[DO/Information Review Officer]

FROM:

[Chief, ~~Intelligence~~ Inquiries Branch, IMS]

SUBJECT:

Kurt Waldheim

REFERENCE:

Your request dated 25 May 1994

1. A search of Directorate of Operations information surfaced the following information concerning Subject(s) listed in reference. This information is for the use of the Office of Director Executive Secretariat and should not be disseminated outside this Agency, or incorporated in any document which is so disseminated, without specific approval and release from the appropriate component(s) of the Directorate of Operations.

2. On 26 November 1980, the CIA received a request from the Honorable Stephen J. Solarz (a member of the House of Representatives) asking for information on the United Nations Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim and his connections to the Nazis. The CIA responded that Waldheim was not a member of the Nazi Youth movement or involved in anti-Jewish activities. We provided to Mr. Solarz a brief summary of information concerning Kurt Waldheim's "military career" which included a statement there was no intelligence reporting in detail on Waldheim's military service.

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3. On 9 June 1987, the CIA answered a FOIA request on Kurt Waldheim from the World Jewish Congress. Our response stated there was one document dated 26 April 1945 recovered, but due to the classification (foreign government information), we refused to release the document. On 21 October 1987, the CIA received a telephone call from the Minister and Counselor of the Austrian Embassy, Herr Christian who inquired about the FOIA response sent to the World Jewish Congress. Mr. Christian stated the Embassy was highly concerned about the press releases that had erroneously stated the CIA knew Kurt Waldheim was involved in Nazi activities and/or was an agent of American Intelligence. We told him that our FOIA response did not mention the contents of the document nor did it state for a fact that there was definite information on Kurt Waldheim. We also stated that the media had no basis for their statements and the CIA was "actively" explaining to the media the errors in their stories. We also reassured Mr. Christian that we had not communicated any other information concerning Mr. Kurt Waldheim to the public or the press. Mr. Christian then asked if the government of Austria could sue the United States (as under FOIA) to gain access to this April 1945 document. We explained a more appropriate "next step" would be for the Austrian government to go through its Ambassador to the Department of State ~~or through an established~~ ~~channel~~. On 23 October 1987, the CIA received a verbal note from the Austrian Embassy, via the Department of State. The verbal note requested the OSS document dated 26 April 1945, be made available to them as soon as possible. At the same time the CIA received a letter from Congressman Stephen J. Solarz. He stated that he had sent us a request in November 1980 and we had responded with, "no intelligence reporting in detail on Waldheim's military service." He had learned earlier in the year that the CIA had acknowledged the existence of an OSS report dated 26 April 1945, and wanted a copy of this document. He went on to state that if the document was still classified he wanted the reason as to why it would be after 42 years after its creation.

4. On 23 October 1987, the CIA made a request to the British asking for permission to release the 26 April document concerning Waldheim. We were given permission to release the information on 28 October 1987, as long as we did not reveal the document's origins.

5. On 5 November 1987, the CIA responded to the Austrian Government via the Department of State Ambassador Rozanne L. Ridgway. First, we explained our reasons for not releasing the document to the Austrian Government. We attached a redacted

version of the 26 April 1945, document and restated that the Government of Austria should remember that the document was still classified SECRET and that the contents of the document could not be shared with any other party without the approval of the United States Government. On 16 November 1987, we responded to Congressman Stephen J. Solarz and reassured him that our previous correspondence in December 1980 and May 1986 was accurate and that the document dated 26 April 1945 was provided by a foreign liaison service and therefore protected under section 1.3 and 1.4 of Executive Order 12356 and U.S. Code 403g of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.

6. On 21 February 1988, a newspaper article (entitled "Sunday People") appeared claiming a, "Foreign Office admitted that a secret file on Waldheim does exist and that we are aware of a report dated April 26, 1945 prepared by the allied forces." The article stated that "British Intelligence compiled a list of senior intelligence officers serving with the Nazis in the Balkans whose capture was regarded as vital to the Allied cause. One of the names on that list was Kurt Waldheim. A file containing the names together with detailed physical descriptions of the wanted men to make capture easier was given to the Americans on April 26, 1945." This sparked further erroneous articles in several newspapers and another request from Congressman Solarz. On May 3, 1988 the CIA received a third memo from Congressman Stephen J. Solarz concerning our responses to his office. Mr. Solarz was confused due to the many press articles and wanted to know if we had checked various agencies and files archived in West Berlin. Mr. Solarz also wanted to know if the CIA had interceded in 1986-1987 to prevent Kurt Waldheim's placement on the Attorney General's watch list. The CIA responded on 8 June 1988 to Mr. Solarz informing him that we had queried the Berlin Document Center in 1972, and we received information on three Germans named Kurt Waldheim, with different dates and places of birth and all were identified as members of various Nazi organizations. We stated, "that based on available information, there was, and continues to be, no evidence that any of the above mentioned individuals were the former Secretary General of the United Nations, an Austrian." We also assured Mr. Solarz that we checked with the Department of Justice to determine if the CIA was involved in adding Mr. Waldheim to the Attorney General watch list. We stated that we found nothing to suggest that the Central Intelligence Agency had any involvement with the Kurt Waldheim "case."

7. On 28 April 1986, the Office of Congressional Affairs responded with the following information (pulled off the 26 April

1945 document) to a request sent to the CIA on 10 April 1986 asking for information on Kurt Waldheim from Senator D'Amato and Mr. Paul Stokton of Senator Moynihan's staff: A search of all Agency records concerning Dr. Kurt Waldheim, born 21 December 1918, in St. Andrea-Woedern, Austria, reveals a reference to an Oberleutnant Waldheim (first name unknown), born circa 1915-1916, height 1.82m., light hair and eyes. Oberleutnant Waldheim was allegedly a member of the Abwehr and a subordinate of Oberstleutnant (Lt. Col.) Warnstorff or Warnsdorf when Warnsdorf was an Abwehr commander in Salonica, Greece. There is no additional information on Oberleutnant Waldheim.

8. The following information might clear up the questions that have risen again. A Memorandum for the Record, dated 9 March 1981, is being provided exactly as it is seen in the Subject's 201 file for your information:

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 an suggestion that he might have been involved in the slaughter of Soviet Jews.

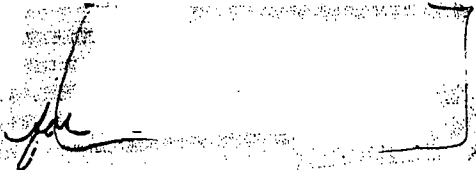
One source which described Waldheim as an "intensely patriotic" youth, indicated that he volunteered for service in the Austrian Army in 1936 following his graduation from high school; he served for less than a full year in a dragoon regiment and withdrew from military service with a rank equivalent 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.

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 the 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.

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 of Foreign Affairs.

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 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 an individual or group with anti-Nazi sentiment, suggests that such an allegation has no basis in fact.



Attachment:
Name Check

IMS/EIB: /43835/CL BY 0668149 (26 May 1994)

Based On: 201-896881

File In: 100-002-082, x-ref: 201-896881

Coord In Draft: EUR/BNCI
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