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**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
BARBIE'S ESCAPE FROM EUROPE WAS
ARRANGED BY THE VATICAN, THE CIC
AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS**
By Charles Allen, Jr.

(Part One Of A Three-Part Series)

(Editor's note: Charles Allen Jr. is an internationally published author/journalist whose book in the early 1960's, "Nazi War Criminals Among Us," provided detailed information about 38 known and suspected war criminals. He has also been called upon frequently by Congressional committees to testify about activities of former Nazis now living in the U.S.).

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Klaus Barbie, the gestapo "butcher of Lyon," recently extradited from Bolivia to France on charges of conducting mass murders and deportations of French Jews and members of the resistance movement during the Holocaust was aided in his escape from Europe in late 1949 and early 1950 by the Vatican, the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) and the International Red Cross.

This correspondent has pieced together from various documents, including the State Department's Barbie's movements since his first utilization by the CIC in 1947 until his expulsion from Bolivia 36 years later.

Barbie took the so-called "monastery route," an underground railroad, so to speak, for scores of wanted Nazi war criminals. The route was known to the U.S. embassy in Rome which did nothing to stem the flow of wanted war criminals from Europe, most of them originating in the American-occupied zone of Germany.

The northern starting point of the "monastery route" was in Bavaria and the Austrian frontier, then dipped south to the Italian Alps, dropping further south to way-stations leading to exits from the ports of Genoa or Naples.

Secreted From Monastery To Monastery

My information shows that Barbie, disguised as a monk, was secreted from monastery to monastery along the route. He went to Milan and then to Genoa and from there to Franco Spain, then to Portugal which was ruled by fascist Premier Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, and then by ship to Latin America where his first country of call was Peru, not Bolivia. There is some evidence indicating that Barbie went first to Argentina.

Corroboration of my findings came dramatically a week ago from Dr. Erhard Dabringhaus, a 65-year-old faculty member of Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich. Dabringhaus served as Barbie's case officer in the CIC in Germany in 1948. He exclusively told NBC-TV News and the Detroit Free Press last week that Barbie had been secretly employed as an informer by the CIC in 1948 for the then astounding sum of \$1,700 a month.

Barbie provided information about other fugitive Nazis then in Europe, Dabringhaus said, confirming in detail what the Paris-based Nazi-hunters, Beate and Serge Klarsfeld had revealed as long ago as 1972 about Barbie's utilization "by the American secret service agencies."

The Klarsfelds also cited a 1969 "secret" West German government report that said: "... the Barbie family arrived in Bolivia in May 1951 ... rumour(ed) ... with foreign (Vatican) passports." On Wednesday, February 9 Italy's largest daily newspaper, Paese Sera, interviewed Dabringhaus and asked whether Barbie had escaped by the "monastery route" of the Vatican.

Dabringhaus said for attribution: "That's right. How did you know that? He was passed along (by the American CIC) to the 'monastery route,' probably disguised as a priest, went down along the Austrian and Italian Alps, down to Genoa and from there through Franco Spain and on to safety to Peru."

State Department's 'Top Secret' Document

Further confirmation of the knowing role of the Vatican in the escape of Barbie -- as well as scores if not hundreds of other SS genocidists -- came in a hitherto "Top Secret" 35-page set of State Department documents which have come into my possession, largely by way of my Freedom of Information requests over the past five years.

It is an internal memorandum, classified "Top Secret" and dated May 14, 1947. Copies are shown to have been sent to the head of the "American Legation in Vienna" and to the then U.S. Secretary of State, five-star General George Catlett Marshall. The State Department has refused to discuss this report.

The title of the "Top Secret" report is "Illegal Emigration Movements In and Through Italy." Its author was Vincent La Vista, an international lawyer then (1947) military attache to the American embassy in Rome and already a skilled intelligence/diplomatic State Department officer.

The "La Vista Report" as it became known in American intelligence circles, broke down into precise detail more than 22 permutations of SS, Nazi Party, ethnic collaborators who were knowingly guided safely through the Vatican's "monastery route."

The La Vista Report also noted in detail the names and political backgrounds of the high-ranking members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy who masterminded the war criminals' escape routes along which Barbie successfully fled.

The Role Of Msgr. Hudal

One of the termination points before exiting Italy to the sunnier climes of Latin America was the notorious pro-fascist cleric, Msgr. Alois Hudal, Bishop of Elia, resident of Collegio Teutonico de Santa Maria dell'Anima in Vatican City.

Hudal personally had welcomed many SS escapees. Hudal defied public criticism of a high cleric's intercession in behalf of wanted Nazi mass murderers;

"I am neither police nor carabinieri," he said in 1947. "My Christian duty is to save whoever can be saved."

Hudal's background, address and telephone numbers — along with the fact of his "directing" the escapees from the Munich/Augsberg/Austrian region — are carefully recorded in the documented pages of the "Top Secret" La Vista Report.

Vatican's Role Explained By U.S. Document

The State Department report stated: "The Vatican of course is the largest single organization involved in the illegal movement . . . the Vatican's justification for this illegal traffic is simply the propagation of the Faith. The Vatican('s) desire to infiltrate not only European countries but Latin American countries as well . . . with people of all political beliefs as long as they are anti-Communist and pro-Catholic Church."

Referring to yet another, earlier report (dated December 16, 1946), this "Top Secret" document went on to state that "the Vatican at various times and under certain conditions utilize the International Red Cross" in order to obtain "Red Cross Documents" (or passports) for Nazi escapees.

"The Free Committee of Austria," the State Department's "Communication to the U.S. Secretary of State" said, was "a staunchly anti-Communist" group "operating under the protection of the Vatican" and "knowingly" used Red Cross passports "sometimes with and sometimes without" the International Red Cross's knowledge.

Barbie Used IRC Passport For His Escape

Barbie, charged with 4,000 murders and 8,000 deportations of French Jewish men, women and children, used an International Red Cross Document (passport) to effectuate his escape from Europe to Latin America, according to investigators.

The State Department's "Top Secret" report referenced an unnamed source in the "Welfare Units" of the Vatican's "Refugee Bureau" who is quoted as having admitted to the U.S. State Department: "There is a definite fear of increasing Communist activities in South America and for this reason, persons possessing a Fascist background are favorably considered (for illegal emigration) rather than (those) . . . with tainted Communist ideas."

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

BEGIN EXPLAINS WHY HIS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE INQUIRY PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin indicated to the Knesset yesterday that his government accepted the recommendations of the commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre only because Israel is a country that lives by the rule of law.

Heaping praise on outgoing Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and the senior army officers whose ousters the commission called for, Begin said the decision to comply with the recommendations was a very hard one to take. He defended the retention of Sharon in the Cabinet, an issue over which Israeli legal experts are sharply divided.

The Knesset voted 61-56 yesterday to approve the Cabinet changes. Begin will assume the responsibilities of Defense Minister temporarily until his choice for the post, Ambassador Moshe Arens, returns from Washington. Arens' confirmation by the Knesset is a virtual certainty. The Knesset vote also endorsed the decision to keep Sharon on as a Minister-Without-Portfolio.

That decision has been attacked by prominent jurists and sections of the press as a circumvention of the commission's intentions. But Begin cited legal opinion in support of it, notably by Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir, former Attorney General Moshe Ben-Ze'ev, and a former chairman of the Knesset's Legal Committee, Zerach Warhaftig. (See Feb. 15 Bulletin.)

Begin Demands Apology From Time Magazine

Begin also demanded an apology from Time magazine for publishing a report in its latest edition that an unpublished section of the inquiry commission's findings disclosed that Sharon had encouraged the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon to take revenge on the Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

According to Time he did this at a secret meeting with veteran Phalangist leader Pierre Gemayel the day after his younger son, Lebanon's President-elect Bashir Gemayel, was assassinated. Begin said the Time allegation was completely false and that the American news weekly owed Israel an apology.

Meanwhile, two ministers who were absent when the Cabinet voted 16-1 last Thursday to accept the inquiry commission's report, expressed support today for the decision to retain Sharon in the government. Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, a leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing and a political moderate, said it "was acceptable to me." Ehrlich has often been sharply critical of Sharon.

Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman, leader of the ultra rightwing Tehiya party, said that if Sharon had been forced out of the government it would have appeared in Europe and the U.S. to be a victory for outside pressures.

Ehrlich, who returned to Israel last night after undergoing heart surgery in the U.S., praised the Cabinet for accepting the commission's findings. For the Cabinet which appointed the commission to have rejected its recommendations would have been incredible, he said.

Ne'eman, who returned from New York on the same flight as Ehrlich, had no comment on the commission. An extreme hard-liner who has called for annexation of south Lebanon by Israel, he warned that if the government ever agreed to the withdrawal of Israel's forces from Lebanon, he and his party would consider leaving Begin's coalition.

HADDAD EXTENDS THE AREA CONTROLLED BY HIS MILITIA By Frank Wundahl

SIDON, Lebanon, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Maj. Saad Haddad, leader of the Israel-backed Christian Free Lebanon Forces, has extended the area controlled by his militia to virtually all of south Lebanon from the Israel border to the Litani River, an area far larger than the border strip he originally controlled.

At the invitation of the Israel Defense Force, Haddad held an impromptu press conference in this Lebanese seaport yesterday, the country's fourth largest city, for members of the American Jewish Press Association/United Jewish Appeal mission travelling in Lebanon.

They were assembled in the courtyard of the IDF compound here, flanked by a dozen freshly painted Sherman tanks provided Haddad's forces by Israel.

With an IDF spokesman, identified only as Maj. Shlomo, standing by, Haddad, responding to questions, told the American Jewish journalists that the presence of the tanks represented "a re-deployment of forces." He was referring obviously to his pronouncement, made hours later, that he was broadening his base of operations.

The IDF spokesman said, "We think it's time for him to help us do our job." He added, "It's a question of principle. We must try to get them (Haddad's forces) to take care of Israel's northern border because it is good for all of us." He said Haddad had demonstrated an ability to unite Lebanon's diverse elements to "stop killing each other and work together against the PLO."

Haddad said he was "not too optimistic" about the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. "The political situation is too complicated. I don't think the Syrians will pull out," he said. He cited the introduction of new Soviet-made SAM-5 missiles as a sign the Syrians are not considering an imminent withdrawal from Lebanon.

Haddad expressed satisfaction that his forces had been cleared by the Israeli commission of inquiry of any involvement in the west Beirut refugee camps massacre. But he refused to comment on the forced resignation of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. "This is Israel's problem," he said.

Asked about the discovery of some 15 more bodies in and around Sidon, Haddad observed: "Many people still have weapons. I hope such things will stop. It is not to the benefit of anyone in Lebanon that this vendetta go on. This is a real crime."

The IDF spokesman elaborated on the killings. "There is a distortion in the way the deaths have been reported," he said. "There was no discovery of a great mound of bodies at one time. They were found singly over a period of one month. These people have been killing each other for years," he added, noting that "There are still armed gangs roving the area. Although the carrying of arms is outlawed, there are many weapons available."

SHULTZ: ARAB WILLINGNESS TO GIVE FUNDS TO REBUILD LEBANON MAY DEPEND ON WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz suggested today the willingness of Arab countries to provide funds to help rebuild Lebanon may depend on the successful withdrawal of Syrian, Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organization forces.

The question of whether Arab countries, Saudi Arabia, in particular, will provide funds "will depend on how successful we are in our efforts to get foreign forces out of Lebanon and to have an independent Lebanon emerge," Shultz told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"At this point we are not there yet," Shultz added. He noted that "people who are thinking about putting money in there are waiting to see what happens." Shultz's comments were made in response to a question from Sen. Larry Pressler (R. S. D.) who wondered whether the loss in oil revenue because of the cut in production and drop

in oil prices might affect the Saudis' ability to help Lebanon financially.

Shultz replied that while the Saudis suffered "the latest blow" as the largest oil producer in the world, "they are not broke by a long shot." He said Saudi assets are "so large" they can fulfill any commitments.

Shultz testified before the committee on the general international economic situation and did not discuss foreign aid specifically, a subject on which he will testify before the House Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow.

Explains Reduced Aid Grant To Israel

But when Pressler asked why the foreign aid grant to Israel in the proposed 1984 budget was reduced from this year's amount, the Secretary replied that the Reagan Administration sought "a balanced program," trying to provide for the needs of Israel as well as that of other countries. He noted that Israel's "overall share is very large" and that the amount recommended was what President Reagan felt was the "appropriate number."

The Administration is asking Congress to provide Israel \$2.485 billion in the 1984 fiscal year, of which \$550 million of the \$1.7 billion in military aid and all of the \$785 million in economic aid would be a grant. Congress this year approved \$850 million as a grant in military aid over the Administration's objections.

ISRAEL FREES ABOUT 100 PRISONERS FROM SOUTH LEBANON DETENTION CAMP

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Israel freed about 100 prisoners from the Ansar detention camp in south Lebanon. But according to press reports, the camp has become a hotbed of Palestine Liberation Organization activity.

The prisoners were released in what officials described as a thinning-out process. About 5,000 Palestinians and Lebanese remain in the camp, however. They have not been granted prisoner-of-war status.

Israeli newspapers reported today that the PLO is maintaining tight discipline among the inmates and has turned the camp into an effective training ground and school for the PLO. Senior PLO members are said to be in command of the camp's various sections.

According to the press reports, the inmates begin each day chanting PLO slogans and then attending indoctrination course. Interrogators trying to weed out PLO supporters say there has been a change of attitude recently.

Whereas camp inmates formerly denied any PLO affiliation or sympathies, now, almost without exception, they proudly admit to pro-PLO sentiments, the interrogators reported.

PARIS (JTA) -- The Israel Embassy in Paris refused Tuesday to confirm or deny reports that Ambassador Meir Rosenne, a 54-year-old career diplomat, is slated to replace Moshe Arens as Israel's Ambassador to the United States. An Embassy spokesman said, "We have no comment at this stage." Other sources said, however, that Rosenne has been sounded out by foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and that the possibility of his Washington appointment was probably discussed.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- The Security Council will resume its current debate on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories Wednesday afternoon.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE PAST AND FUTURE ARIEL SHARON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Ariel Sharon officially relinquished the post of Defense Minister yesterday but it is too early to tell whether he will emerge weaker or stronger from this latest crisis in his flamboyant and fiercely controversial career.

Judging from demonstrations in his favor while the Cabinet deliberated his fate last week after the commission of inquiry into the Beirut refugee camps massacre recommended his resignation or dismissal, Sharon's supporters among rank-and-file Israelis are legion. But public opinion polls have shown repeatedly that not too many people are sorry to see him go.

When Sharon first ran for political office on his own, the independent Shlom Zion ticket in the 1977 Knesset elections, his faction won only two seats. But that result is no measure of his political power today which resides within the governing Likud coalition.

Sharon's close supporters are intensely loyal. His press advisor, Uri Dan, expressed confidence Sunday that the departing Defense Minister eventually will achieve the highest office. "Those who refused to see Arik (Sharon's nickname) as Chief of Staff, had to him become Defense Minister. Those who refused to see him as Minister of Defense will have to accept him as Premier," Dan said.

Talent For Creating Enemies

But Sharon seems to have a talent for creating enemies. His uncompromising language and his self-righteous defense of the conduct for which he was condemned by the inquiry commission -- "They are spilling my blood," he has proclaimed repeatedly in recent days -- have been deplored by many. He has succeeded in alienating former army comrades. Few if any of his opponents have been converted to supporters.

Among his aides and subordinates, few have managed to work with him for very long. Some of his closest advisors have left, disenchanted. But within the army where the hierarchy is clear and unequivocal, Sharon still commands considerable support.

Even his critics conceded that he is a man of action, an author of events. The trouble, they say, is that he does the wrong things. The highlights of his 19-month tenure as Defense Minister were the war in Lebanon and his unrelenting campaign of massive Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Sharon is a career soldier. At the age of 20, in Israel's War of Independence, he was wounded in the battle for Latrun. While he was hospitalized he abandoned the idea of becoming a farmer and was determined to return to the battlefield.

Convinced He Was Wronged By Inquiry Panel

Right now, he is determined to remain in the Cabinet although a majority of his fellow ministers it has been reported -- would like to see him out.

Sharon is honestly convinced that he has been wronged by the inquiry commission and intends to fight its findings. He disagreed vehemently with its conclusions that Israel was indirectly responsible for the massacre and that he was personally culpable for not making an effort to avoid it.

Until now Sharon has won all of his personal battles. He has known a few setbacks but was always triumphant in the end. One of the few heroes to emerge from the Yom Kippur War, he expected to be appointed Chief of Staff. When that post was denied him, he entered the political arena.

Role As A Prime Mover

He was the prime mover behind the alliance between the Liberal Party and Herut which produced first the Gahal faction and later Likud. He joined Premier Menachem Begin's first government as Minister of Agriculture. But he soon became a key member of the coalition, getting himself appointed chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee from which he pushed for massive Jewish settlement in the territories.

When Defense Minister Ezer Weizman resigned in 1981, Begin's reluctance to name Sharon his successor was a bitter pill. But the general swallowed it quietly.

After Begin's re-election in June, 1981, with a reduced Knesset margin, Sharon presented him with a virtual ultimatum and was named Minister of Defense.

The War In Lebanon

The war in Lebanon last summer was the result of his own long preparation. He was determined from the outset not only to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization but to change the political infrastructure of Lebanon.

During the war, he was accused of presenting the Cabinet with faits accomplis, but so far as is known, none of his fellow ministers rebelled. Nevertheless, as the Israel army pushed deeper into Lebanon, dissatisfaction within the government and in the army grew.

When Sharon ordered the siege of west Beirut -- round-the-clock heavy bombardment of the city from land, sea and air -- one young officer, Col. Eli Geva, publicly expressed the anger and misgivings felt by some members of the officers corps and within the ranks. Geva asked to be relieved of his divisional command which had been slated to enter the city. He was relieved and subsequently discharged from the army.

After the massacres in the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps, a number of senior officers threatened to follow Geva's example unless an investigation was ordered. Both Sharon and Begin bitterly opposed a judicial inquiry but backed down under severe public pressure and the commission was appointed.

The commission's report forced his resignation as Defense Minister. But Sharon salvaged his political career. He will remain in the Cabinet. As he told Defense Ministry staff at his ceremonial departure yesterday: "In this establishment one does not always know who comes and who goes."

PARIS (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand will convene an international conference which will study the best ways to prevent anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination in the world. Mitterrand Monday told a seminar of intellectuals convened by the French Ministry of Culture that the special "anti-hate" conference will be held in Paris before the end of the year. The President reportedly has asked a small group of intellectuals to prepare an agenda and draw up a list of possible delegates to the meeting.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated February 21, George Washington's birthday, a postal holiday.