

**AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITERS TO CONVENE IN ISRAEL**



TEL AVIV, ISRAEL: - THE PRESTIGIOUS SOCIETY OF AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITERS (SATW) WILL HOLD ITS 1983 CONVENTION IN ISRAEL. AT A RECENT CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY IN THIS MEDITERRANEAN CITY, ETHEL BLUM, SATW PRESIDENT FINALIZED THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH A HANDSHAKE WITH RAPHAEL FARBER, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COORDINATOR OF THE CONVENTION PLANS.

TEL AVIV, Israel - 1983, it was announced by Raphael Farber, Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Tourism and Ethel Blum, SATW President. At a contract signing cere-

mony at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel, Blum told reporters, "I am confident that this convention will be one of the most spectacular in the society's 27 - year history."

More than 400 American and Canadian delegates are expected to attend the convention. The opening ceremony, business meetings, as well as concentrated sightseeing - will be held in Jerusalem, after which delegates will split into smaller groups to tour the country; they will return to Tel Aviv for two more days of sightseeing and meetings. El Al Israel Airlines will be the meeting's official air - carrier, and it is expected that other airlines will join in the transportation of delegates. Israel's Ministry of Tourism is coordinating convention arrangements; Hilton International will host

**The U.S. - Barbie Connection**

WASH. (WNS) -- Reversing an earlier position, the Justice Department announced here that it will conduct a "comprehensive investigation" into allegations that Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, now in custody in France, was employed by U.S. government agencies after World War II and helped by them to escape from Europe. The Department's

participants at its Jerusalem and Tel Aviv hotels.

SATW is a professional society whose members in the U.S.A. and Canada including leading travel editors, writers, photographers, broadcasters and public relations specialists. It has held previous annual conventions in fifteen countries including (1982) The Bahamas, (1981) Thailand, (1980) Poland, (1979) Hawaii, (1978) India.

The United States is Israel's number-one source of tourism; one of the Ministry of Tourism's aims in hosting the SATW convention is to demonstrate to American writers (and their public) Israel's attributes as a sophisticated and unique travel destination, in addition to its traditional religious and historic attractions. In 1982 more than one - million overseas vacationers, visitors and pilgrims came to Israel.

announcement said it viewed the allegations "with deep concern" and that a study of government files indicated a full investigation was "warranted." The Department, earlier, had refused to go into the case despite mounting evidence of the U.S. intelligence community's involvement with the former gestapo chief of Lyon, France.

The Justice Department decision came following revelations by specialists investigating Barbie's activities during his post World War II days. Charles Allen, Jr., an internationally prominent authority on surviving Nazi war criminals wrote that Barbie "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." He said he obtained his information "from various documents," including the State Department's which detailed "Barbie's movements since his first utilization by the CIC in 1947 until his expulsion from Bolivia 36 years later."

Allen said his findings were corroborated by Dr. Erhard Dabringhaus, a faculty member at Wayne State University in Detroit, who told NBC-TV News and the Detroit Free Press that Barbie had been secretly employed as an informer by the CIC in 1948 and was paid the then substantial sum of \$1,700 a month. Dabringhaus, now 65, served as Barbie's "case officer" with the CIC in 1948.

Barbie's involvement with the CIA was confirmed by -Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld who charged, in an article in the Paris daily Le Monde of February 15, that the CIA not only employed Barbie as a special agent but enabled him to flee to Latin America by granting him a "temporary travel document" registered under the name of Klaus Altmann, the name under which he illegally obtained Bolivian citizenship in 1952.

Reports that he visited New Orleans and Miami under the alias Klaus Altmann were said to be supported by U.S. Immigration Service documents. Last November 11, one Robert Wilson, a self-admitted international jewel thief told ABC - TV News that he knew Barbie in Bolivia and that the Nazi "freely confessed" his war crimes and his involvement with the CIA. According to Wilson, Barbie claimed he visited New Orleans and San Francisco in the course of his work for the CIA, travelling on a Bolivian diplomatic passport. The CIA refused to comment at the time.

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