

NAZI HUNTERS MAKE CHARGES

NEW YORK -- Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, the husband-and-wife Nazi hunters who tracked down Klaus Barbie, head of the Gestapo in Lyons, France, today charged that the U.S. State Department and Army Intelligence protected Barbie and other Nazi war criminals in order to use them as agents against Communists.

The Klarsfelds made their revelations at a news conference at the national headquarters of the American Jewish Committee. They charged that after U.S. Army intelligence had hidden Barbie in a "safe house" in West Germany, they allowed him to escape to South America when he remained until his recent arrest in Bolivia.

After the Klarsfelds located Barbie in Bolivia, they revealed his true identity to the French and German governments and stalked him for 11 years until the French government finally forced his return to France, where he is to stand trial for his crimes against humanity.

"Whatever we may think of the ethics of governments that protect Nazi criminals," Serge Klarsfeld said, "it is sad to see a man like Barbie who was involved in the murder of thousands of Jews and French resistance fighters being employed by democratic governments."

It is time, Klarsfeld added, "that the people should understand how Nazi cri-

minals escaped justice." He said that he and Mrs. Klarsfeld had repeatedly supplied information about Barbie to the British, French and U.S. officials, but nothing was ever done. On several occasions, he said, they seemed to accept the excuse that "Barbie was not guilty because he did not know Jewish children he had deported from France would be killed."

During the cold war, Klarsfeld stated, "there was constant cooperation between Barbie and the United States, which used him to travel in the Soviet zone gathering information."

Almost 80,000 Jews were killed in the Nazi occupation of France, many of them young children who were deported while their parents were being deported with other groups. The records indicate many instances of young children taking care of their even younger brothers and sisters while they were on the way to extermination, Mrs. Klarsfeld said.

Mrs. Klarsfeld gave additional details of the search for Barbie. She had found the most notorious member of the Gestapo in France, in his hiding place in South America. He was living in Lima, Peru, under the name of Klaus Altmann. As chief of the Gestapo of Lyon, Barbie had, among his many other crimes, ordered Jean

Moulin, the Chief of the French domestic resistance, tortured to death.

It required the use of the endless documentation they had painstakingly gathered, Mrs. Klarsfeld stated, before they succeeded in getting the French government to seek Barbie's extradition. Up to that time there had been the familiar record of delay and evasion by governments who would have preferred to forget the past.

According to the Klarsfelds the role of the Vichy government in war crimes has never been fully disclosed. Thousands of Jews were hounded to death in the so-called Free Zone, they said, where there were no Germans. Mrs. Klarsfeld anticipated that the facts would be revealed at legal proceedings that she said would commence in the near future.

Responding to a query regarding the presence of Dr. Mengele, the notorious Nazi medical experimenter, the Klarsfelds said he was probably in Paraguay but his exact whereabouts were unknown.



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