

U.S. Admits Aiding Barbie Escape

From Germany After World War II

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after Barbie was extradited in February from Bolivia to France to face charges of crimes against humanity in Lyon. Ryan stressed today that his study did not consider whether Barbie was guilty in the deportation and deaths of at least 11,000 Jews and French resistance leaders in wartime France, but whether the U.S. had prevented his extradition to France. "A principle of democracy and of the rule of law is that justice delayed is justice denied," he said. "We have delayed justice in Lyon."

But also stressing the U.S. government should apologize for having provided France with false information, Ryan said that those who actually did cover up Barbie's whereabouts should not themselves be personally liable to prosecution because they acted "to protect what they believed to be the interests of the United States Army and the United States government." He also said he did not believe his studies show that any new legislation is warranted.

Ryan said that Barbie was employed by the U.S. Army Counter-Intelligence Corp. (CIC) in Germany from 1947 to 1951, when he was helped to escape to South America. He said that since 1951 Barbie has had no relation with the U.S. government or any of its agencies. Ryan added during the 1960s the Army proposed using Barbie for intelligence work but the proposal was rejected by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Barbie, who lived under the name of Klaus

Altmann until his extradition from Bolivia this year, visited the United States in 1969 and 1970, each time for a week, as representative for a Bolivian shipping firm, Ryan said. He said that neither the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia nor the Immigration and Naturalization Service knew that Altmann was Barbie. Ryan also said that there is no evidence of Barbie being involved with drug smuggling or gun-running, at least as far as the U.S. was concerned.

When the CIC first employed Barbie it knew he had been with the gestapo but did not know he was wanted for war crimes, Ryan said. He said the CIC believed he had concentrated on counter-intelligence combatting the French underground. Ryan made the point that those who decided to use Barbie should not now be vilified. He said they made a defensible decision, even if it was not the only defensible one and were not themselves "entirely comfortable" in using former gestapo officers.

Israel Shekel Devalued By 7.5 %

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The Bank of Israel's central bank, devalued the Israel Shekel by 7.5 percent against the dollar, in a new indication that Israel was continuing to lose its battle against the economy's galloping inflation. The Shekel was being sold by the Central Bank to commercial banks at 57.13 Shekels to the dollar, as against 53.14.

The announcement came as the Ministerial Economic Committee

held closed door meetings in an effort to implement the Finance Ministry's plans to cut Israel's out-of-balance budget by drastically trimming the funds all government ministries may spend this year. Latest reports indicated that the Finance Ministry has concluded the meetings with some initiative, although it was not immediately disclosed and the Cabinet was reported expected to discuss the proposal at its next weekly session.

The devaluation was denounced by Israel's powerful union movements, the Histadrut, and received only a lukewarm welcome from manufacturers who called it "too little and too late." Some exporters said the devaluation would help

Israel's urgent need to expand exports if accompanied by other fiscal measures, presumably meaning deep government budget cuts, and possibly reduce imports by increasing their prices.

Yisrael Keissar, deputy secretary-general of the Histadrut, warned that devaluation would not solve all of Israel's economic problems and repeated the Histadrut's opposition to any changes in the present arrangement which links wage hikes to inflation increases. But Eli Hurwitz, head of the Manufacturers Association, called the devaluation "a move in the right direction."

Experts noted that the 7.5 percent devaluation was a sharp jump from the

customary unofficial creeping devaluation of the Shekel which, until about two months ago, averaged about five percent a month. In recent weeks, the Central Bank accelerated the rate of devaluation and during the past 10 days, the Shekel lost 10 percent of its purchasing power.

The official explanation for the 7.5 percent devaluation was that the adjustment brought the Shekel closer into line with its "real value." The immediate purpose of the devaluation was described as that of encouraging Israel exports, by making them cheaper on world markets, and discouraging imports, by making them more expensive.

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