

Simon Wiesenthal Role In Murderers Among Us Sets Precedent For Ben Kingsley

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dedicated his life to the pursuit of Nazi war criminals and was instrumental in the arrests of Adolf Eichmann, Franz Murer and Franz Stangl.

To get to know his subject, Kingsley spent two days with Simon Wiesenthal in Vienna before filming began outside Budapest, Hungary. For both actor and author, the meeting was meaningful and memorable. "Within 10 minutes, we were both crying together," relates Kingsley.

The moving story Wiesenthal recounted was of his liberation from Mauthausen concentration camp. "When the Jews were liberated, they had no flag," the actor continues. "The other prisoners were waving flags. Simon and a friend of his made a flag out of two shirts, one white and one blue. The Jews came to kiss the flag, crying, and some of them actually on their way to kissing the flag, dropped dead. Never made those few yards.

"Wiesenthal is one of history's great balladeers. He gets ambushed by waves of memories and he cries. He has a capacity to connect. Our relationship is very close. We are bonded by an insistence on the same 11 million voices being heard," says Kingsley.

"I met Simon amidst a growing awareness over the years of the Holocaust, ever since I first watched the documentary series 'War in the Air' when I was 11. The episode dealt with the relief camps. It left an indelible image and a kind of massive indignation in me ever since I saw it. In terms of one's own ethics, based on some scale of good and evil, I have to take that one on board as being evil.

"I was born in 1943 and there must have been millions burnt, gassed and shot to death during the first two years of my life. I asked Simon what he was doing on my second birthday. He and I have the same birthday, so I knew he'd remember. He

U.S. Won't Confirm Reports Iraq Building Nuclear Warheads

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Iraq is said to be rushing to develop nuclear weapons, but the State Department has refused to confirm or deny newspaper reports to that effect.

The Washington Post quoted well-placed Israeli sources as saying Iraq is engaging in a crash program to build nuclear warheads.

The warheads would be deployed on a medium-range, surface-to-surface missile, the Condor-2, that Iraq is developing with Argentina and Egypt, the Post reported.

French, Italian and West German firms are allegedly helping Argentina, Egypt and Iraq develop the Condor-2, in violation of the seven-nation Missile Technology Control Regime of 1987.

That treaty, which the three European countries have signed, prohibits export of components and technology for such missiles, the Post said.

Israeli sources quoted by the paper said the goal was to test and procure the warhead in two to five years.

They believe the three countries are trying to develop a nuclear, and not a conventional, missile. This conclusion is based partly on Israeli estimates that the cost of each Condor-2 is \$8 million, and that it is capable of carrying warheads as

was free: He'd escaped, and was between camps. All of us that were born in Europe during those years are children of that event, because everything connects. I've always felt it very strongly. It has to be part of my consciousness.

"This role deals with Simon's experience and the experience of the 11 million who died during the Holocaust," concludes Kingsley. "I suppose there's some kind of justice in ensuring that a cry of pain which lasts forever is heard forever. I was always sincerely hoping for an opportunity to articulate that cry of pain."

heavy as 1,100 pounds.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher had no reaction when asked about any West German involvement in the project.

West Germany recently admitted that its firms supplied materials to a Libyan chemical plant that the U.S. suspects may be used to build chemical weapons, possibly against Israel.

"I would caution against drawing any conclusions at this point based on allegations," Boucher said.

"Some of the allegations we may not be in a position to confirm and others we will not confirm," because they could threaten U.S. intelligence sources, he said.

Asked how the United States would view any Israeli military action against the alleged Iraqi nuclear program, he said, "The United States in general opposes any escalation of tensions in the region or resort to military force."

The United States has "no indication that the Israelis are planning anything," he added.

In 1981, the Israeli air force bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor. But 25 pounds of enriched uranium left over from the reactor is being used for a new Iraqi nuclear program, Israeli sources asserted.

The new reactor is allegedly being financed in part by Saudi Arabia with Pakistan providing "limited technical assistance," the Post reported. But Israeli sources told the Post that reconstruction of the reactor has not begun.

"The Saudis have said that they are willing to help finance reconstruction of the Osirak reactor," Boucher said. In signing the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Saudi Arabia has pledged not to help other countries develop nuclear weapons, he added.

"We have discussed the Non-Proliferation Treaty with the Israelis and we have encouraged them to sign it," Boucher added.



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