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212 62015
Mengele, Josef / 6-24-60
Xr. 662:0076

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

1837
DESP. NO.

June 24, 1960
DATE

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF: EVR 9

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SUBJECT: Extradition Case of Nazi Josef MENGELE, Accused of War Crimes

International furore over the Eichmann case (Embdespatch 1772 June 13, 1960) has not taken the spotlight off another but less known Nazi accused of war crimes, Dr. Josef Mengele, reportedly a resident of Argentina, who has for some time evaded attempts to bring him to justice.

In June, 1959, the German Embassy in Buenos Aires, acting under instructions from Bonn, requested the Argentine Foreign Office to institute judicial proceedings for Mengele's extradition. Initial investigation by the Argentine authorities disclosed no record of the subject's entry into this country, and further information was requested from the West German Government. This information was submitted in January, 1960, with a renewed request for Mengele's extradition.

As there is no extradition treaty between Argentina and West Germany, the case must be submitted to the Argentine Solicitor General for a recommendation in accordance with Article 652 of the Criminal Code. The Foreign Office did not do this until June of 1960, but by then, Mengele, who had finally been located in this country, had disappeared.

If a favorable recommendation is received from the Solicitor General, the Foreign Office must then decide whether or not the extradition is in the best interests of Argentina. Should the Foreign Office decide in the affirmative, the case must then be submitted to a court of law, where Mengele will have an opportunity to testify. Only if such a court rules that the extradition is in order can Mengele be delivered to West Germany, but the Argentine police will have to find him first. According to La Prensa (June 24) the Federal Police neither know his whereabouts nor have orders for his detention.

POL: [unclear] cam

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Buenos Aires

Josef Mengele is reported to have been born in Bavaria, March 16, 1918, and to have been physician of the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II.

For the Ambassador:

Gustav Sallas

Second Secretary of Embassy

Copy to:

ARA/EST/A - Mr. O'Connor
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