

Did Priest Help Escape Of the 'Butcher of Lyon'?

Washington (NC) -- Klaus Barbie, a former Nazi Gestapo official known as the "Butcher of Lyons," France, escaped from postwar Europe with the aid of the U.S. Army's Counterintelligence Corps and a priest with Nazi ties, according to a Justice Department report.

In February, Barbie, 69, was expelled by the government of Bolivia, where he had lived for 32 years, to France, which had sought his return for more than 30 years. He was head of the Gestapo in Lyons from 1942-44 and is being charged by France with "crimes against humanity." He is said to have deported thousands of people to Nazi death camps and to have killed and tortured others.

He was allegedly aided in his escape by a smuggling operation known as the "Rat Line," run by Father Krunoslav Draganovic, a Croatian priest described as a seminary teacher in Rome and a refugee assistance official with the Vatican.

Father Draganovic, according to old NC News files on him, was affiliated with the Nazi-occupation government of Yugoslavia during the war.

He was described by the CIC, according to the Justice Department report, as a "fascist and war criminal whose contacts with South American diplomats are of a similar class."

Although Father Draganovic allegedly supplied Barbie with a fake International Red Cross passport, the priest in other cases used documents obtained from South American diplomats, Italian authorities and from the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the Justice Department said.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference, predecessor of the U.S. Catholic Conference and National Conference of Catholic Bishops, ran an extensive refugee assistance program in Europe after World War II.

According to the report, as cited in news accounts, the

U.S. Army's CIC employed Barbie after the war as an informer and operator of an intelligence network which the United States used to spy on activities of France and the Soviet Union. The action came at a time when the former wartime allies were increasingly suspicious of one another -- France and the Soviet Union were likewise spying on the United States postwar operations in Europe, the report indicated.

Barbie was known as a Gestapo agent but not as a wanted war criminal during the first two years of his work for the CIC, according to the report. Then, in 1949, during a trial of another suspect, allegations of Barbie's wartime activities surfaced. Among them was the charge that he had used acetylene torches on prisoners' feet during torture sessions to get them to talk. Nonetheless, despite the allegations and requests by France for Barbie's capture so that he could be tried, the CIC continued to shelter him, according to the report. In addition to lying to the French authorities about Barbie's U.S. connection, the CIC also lied to U.S. government officials, the report said.

Eventually, according to the Justice Department, Barbie was smuggled out of Europe via Father Draganovic's network.

St. Michael's Church Notes 110th Anniversary Sept. 25

Parishioners at St. Michael's Church are planning a dual celebration this year: the 110th anniversary of the parish's founding, and the patronal feast day, Sept. 25.

A concelebrated Mass will open the day at 10:30 a.m., and a coffee reception will follow.

A buffet dinner will be served at 5 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be obtained by calling the rectory, 325-4040, before Sept. 18.

Father Vincent Panepinto, pastor, and Mrs. Connie Rose and Juan Pacheco, co-chairpersons, said the theme of the celebra-

tion is, "We're alive and well and all are welcome!"

They encouraged all former parishioners to attend.

La familia parroquial de San Miguel, 869 Clinton Ave. N., Rochester, NY 14605, celebrará la Fiesta Patronal y el Aniversario (110 años) de la parroquia, el Domingo, 25 de Septiembre de 1983.

Se celebrará una misa a las diez y media por la mañana, seguida por una convivencia en el hall.

Habrà una cena en el hall a las cinco de la tarde. Las entradas cuestan cinco dólares por persona. Se venderán después de las misas dominicales y en la rectoría (por favor, llame 325-4040).

Padre Vicente Panepinto, Pastor, y los presi-

dentes del comite por la fiesta, la Sra. Connie Rose, y el Señor Juan Pacheco, anunciaron el Tema de la celebración: Estamos Aquí Y Te Esperamos!


La familia parroquial extiende una invitación sincera a todos los feligreses anteriores a participar con nosotros, en Cristo.

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No LA Prosecution In Abortion case

Los Angeles (NC) -- Dist. Atty. Robert H. Philibosian said Aug. 19 that no one will be prosecuted in connection with the abortions of 16,431 fetuses, whose remains were found stored near Los Angeles 18 months ago.

But the court fight between the district attorney's office and the American Civil Liberties Union over whether to bury or incinerate the fetuses remains undecided, according to an Aug. 20 Los Angeles Times report.

In February 1982, the remains of 16,431 fetuses were found, most of them in a container on the property of Malvin R. Weisberg, who had formerly operated Medical Analytic Laboratories, Inc., in Santa Monica, Calif. The fetuses apparently were sent to Weisberg's laboratory by hospitals which perform abortions.

The district attorney's office held 193 of the larger fetuses as evidence for possible prosecution of the abortionists.

Philibosian said there will be no prosecutions because California's 1967 therapeutic abortion law was declared unconstitutional last February by Superior Court Judge Eli Chernow.

Chernow ruled that the 1967 law, which barred abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, did not conform to the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion during the first two trimesters (about 26 weeks) of pregnancy.

Meanwhile, the question of the disposal of the fetuses remained unsettled. Last December, Chernow granted a request by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights for authorization of then-Dist. Atty. John Van de Kamp's plan to bury the fetuses. The judge explicitly recognized the First Amendment rights of religious-minded citizens to conduct a memorial service in conjunction with the burial.

Philibosian also supported burial of the fetuses.

But in March, the California Supreme Court granted a stay of the court order to bury the fetuses at

the request of the Feminist Women's Health Center, an abortion clinic, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

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