

Mr. Elan Steinberg, executive director
World Jewish Congress
501 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Mr. Steinberg,

Please excuse my typing. I'm 83, in impaired health and it can be no better.

The lengthy story in today's Washington Post reminds me that I should have been in touch with you years ago about this matter of Nazi money in Argentina. I did research that might be helpful today when I was in the Latin American Division of Research and Analysis of the OSS. If any of that work is still available or some of my sources they may be helpful to you.

My OSS assignments began as a soldier, when I was in the Presentation Branch. I went to LAD after medical discharge. In both jobs I was also used as a trouble-shooter on investigations. That came from my investigative reporting in which I specialized in Nazi cartels.

One of my jobs in particular required work that may be relevant. After all these years I do not want to go farther than this. It involves a little known event in our history where Nelson Rockefeller made national policy that was the opposite of the national policy he was to have served.

I was in charge of the research for the economic part of what came to be known as The Blue Book on Argentina. Rockefeller was to have used that at the meeting of the American states at Chapultepec, Mexico. He was with it to have prevented Argentina's admission to the United Nations at its coming organizational meeting. Rockefeller did not use it, made no such effort, and these states did not take a position opposing Argentina's entry into the UN.

Copies of The Blue Book will exist. What will not be as easy to find and what may no longer exist is the raw materials in which I made the case of Peron and Argentina then being at the least overly friendly with Nazi Germany and with Nazis in general.

As I recall it, and I intend these as possible leads for possible searching, there was a large store of such records in the building of a bank on the south side of G Street, NW between 14 and 15, on the third floor. The government had that space. There was also a large collection of records of Char nature in the Commerce Department building, as I recall on the first floor and facing the ellipse.

Of the people who were familiar with those deposits who I can now recall one is Judy Coplon, then in the Justice Department. She later married as I recall one of her lawyers and moved to Brooklyn. I do not recall his name but if not known the Times index would disclose it with little work. It is morgue.

One lawyer who then used the Commerce Department collection was Monroe Karaski. Later, in private practise in Washington, the Dominican dictator Trujillo was one of his clients. (Another of Trujillo's lawyers had been attorney general, Homer Cummings. He had lots of US lawyers.)

I do not know if either is still alive or if so has any recollections that could be helpful.

What I think would be helpful is not limiting the quest to after the Nazis were defeated, as parts of the Post story seem to indicate. I think it was intensified with the beginning of reverses on the Eastern front. I think it would also be helpful if that kind of money could be traced to Argentine business and in particular, industry.

The analyst who sat on the Argentina desk in our shop was a woman, Isabel Rennie. She lived in Wellington, as I did. Her husband was in England. She was strongly anti-Peron and anti-Hitler. She may have learned what could be of use to you if she is still alive and remembers.


The bank I refer to on the previous page was then The District National Bank.

There was a sequel to that Blue Book fiasco. An effort was made at the San Francisco organizational meeting of the UN to bar Argentina from membership. There was a similar research project. I presume the economic part was considered strong enough because I was put in charge of the military part, to make the case that Nazis dominated Argentine military policies and personnel. I asked to be relieved of that at the beginning. My expressed reason is that it was bad policy and would be hurtful to the United States, especially in Latin America. As it was! And it failed.

A white paper was prepared for this but I have no reason to believe it said any more about Nazi money and influence in Argentine economic matters.

Whether I knew more that might come to mind in conversation with an informed person I do not know. I send you this on the chance it might be useful.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg