



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**  
A DIVISION OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

**MS-630: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Digital Collection, 1953-1996.**  
Series A: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1961-1996.

---

Box  
17

Folder  
1

Waldheim, Kurt [subject], 1986.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

---

Walden

PERSONAL

July 10, 1986  
3 Tammuz 5746

Mr. Arthur J. Kobacker  
P.O. Box 16751  
Columbus, OH 43216-6751

Dear Arthur:

It was thoughtful of you to share with me your letter from Mr. Kachs of the Austrian National Bank. It is a very helpful analysis and I thank you for bringing it to my attention.

With warm personal regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

7/2/86  
THOMAS G. LACHS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - DO NOT SHOW TO ANY ONE  
NOT ON MY LIST. XEROX HV, JSK, MSK,  
GORDON ZUCKS, LARS WEXNER, SCHINDLER, VORSMAN,  
TICKLER 8/16 AM  
Vienna, June 25, 1986  
GARRY POW  
COBALL BROWN  
CHUCK SCHMIDT  
FOR YOUR INTEREST

Mr. Arthur J. KOBACKER  
Chairman

The Kobacker Company

6606 Tussing Road  
P.O. Box 16751  
Columbus, OH 43216-6751  
U S A

RECEIVED JUN 30 1986

Edie -  
Please thank  
Kobacker  
for sharing  
this very  
helpful  
analysis  
with me.  
AS

Dear Arthur,

Thank you for your letter. It was good to hear from you.

To your questions:

Waldheim served in the German army like almost all Austrians of his age group. Though thousands of Austrians did have the courage to resist the Nazis, Waldheim evidently was not among them - but few people are willing to be heroes in any society.

Up to now none of the documents published or evidence given are even near to proving that Waldheim was personally involved in any war crimes. His low rank in the German army (1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant) and the fact that he is certainly not a leader also make it unlikely that he actually took the initiative for any criminal acts.

On the other hand it is quite clear and obvious that he lied countless times in his statements about his wartime activities. He obviously must have known and knew about atrocities committed by the Nazis and the German army in Yugoslavia and Greece though he still denies this. He was also at least a fellow traveller in some Nazi-organizations - maybe not out of conviction but only out of opportunism. His lies about his past are the only substantial evidence that he has something to hide but I do not consider this evidence compelling. That many Austrian voters had no qualms about electing a liar as their president is also an obvious fact.

As to your question if Waldheim is anti-Semitic I do not know him personally and can not give you a definite answer. On the basis of what he has said and done in and after the election the situation to me seems to be even worse: He is not anti-Semitic, but the people who supported him (and up to a certain degree he himself) used anti-Semitism as a means of appealing to the voters.

Start  
a file  
on  
Waldheim  
I enclose  
this.

May I explain why I consider this even worse than being an anti-Semite. An anti-Semite has his convictions and - however repulsive they may be - is willing to stand up for them. A person who privately is not anti-Semitic but uses anti-Semitism as a political weapon is much more cynical and in my eyes more to be condemned. The leaders of the Austrian People's Party (the large right of center party in Austria) obviously appealed to anti-Semitic prejudices in their quest for votes for Waldheim. This is particularly true of the general secretary of that party, Dr. Graff, who is much too smart to claim that he did not know what he was doing.

The result of these appeals to anti-Semitism by leading political figures are quite obvious: First of all they persuaded a (probably small) number of voters to support Waldheim at the election. A second result is, however, more important: While for the last decades anti-Semites in Austria were usually ashamed of their prejudices and very reluctant to voice them in public or even in private, anti-Semitism today is once again almost respectable. The leaders of the People's Party have willfully reintroduced anti-Semitism into Austrian politics even though they themselves may be fully aware of how stupid but also how dangerous this form of prejudice is, particularly in a country with Austria's history. It is therefore not surprising that Jews are being threatened in anonymous mailings, threats have been placed over telephone and I am very much afraid that soon there will be violent acts.

Many people in Austria (including Mr. Waldheim) are convinced that our country's troubles with this election will soon be over and that the world will forget. I cannot share this optimism. I am afraid that the resurgence of anti-Semitism is here to stay and that this is something nobody will be able to hide from the world.

Please give our love to Sara Jo.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the name 'Tom'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'T' and a trailing flourish.



*Waldman*

July 8, 1986  
1 Tammuz 5746

Mr. Menachem Z. Rosensaft  
425 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Manachem:

Many thanks for your letter and expression of concern. I am feeling much better and was delighted to receive permission from my cardiologist to return to my desk. While I will not be coming to the office on a full-time basis, I will be coming in for a few hours a few times a week. Needless to note this is a development which pleases me very much.

It was thoughtful of you to share with me the article which appeared in the New York Times. As a matter of fact, I did read your piece while I was in Israel and I was impressed by your statement.

My thanks for your good wishes and your friendship which I reciprocate with a full heart.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

425 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

July 3, 1986

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
President  
Union of American Hebrew  
Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex:

I was delighted to read your letter in yesterday's New York Times, and to see that you are back in action. We were all extremely concerned, and I hope that you are well again.

Needless to say, I agree with every word you wrote. The entire issue requires an unambiguous reaction on the part of the progressive elements of the Jewish community.

In case you did not see it, I am enclosing an article of mine which was published on the Op-Ed Page of The New York Times some weeks ago. I think it may interest you.

I hope to see you soon. With best wishes for your continued good health, and with warmest regards,

Sincerely yours, *in friendship* -



Menachem Z. Rosensaft

Enclosure

## What Did Waldheim Do in the War?

### He Can't Be Exonerated Of His Guilt

By Menachem Z. Rosensaft

**H**itler, Adolf Eichmann, Josef Mengele, Klaus Barbie — all were war criminals who, beyond any doubt, reasonable or otherwise, committed heinous crimes against humanity. Kurt Waldheim belongs in a different category altogether, and he may or may not in fact have been a war criminal. But that hardly exonerates him of guilt for his participation in the absolute evil of the Hitler era.

Mr. Waldheim was not stationed at a concentration camp, he did not conduct terminal medical experiments on defenseless Jews and Gypsies, he never operated a gas chamber and he did not determine policy during his years as an intelligence officer in the German Army. Yet it is clear that, from 1939 to 1945, he was a willing and apparently enthusiastic servant of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich.

He claims to have been a "respectable soldier," but in reality he aided and abetted the German Army's violations of numerous international conventions dealing with the wartime treatment of civilians and captured enemy soldiers. At the very least, he closed his eyes to the deportations of Greek Jews to Auschwitz that were taking place under his very nose. And he stands accused by the United Nations War Crimes Commission of having participated in atrocities against partisans and civilians in Yugoslavia.

*Menachem Z. Rosensaft, a lawyer, is founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.*

Thus, whether or not he was a war criminal, he certainly was a Nazi soldier who — both by his actions and by his failure to protest even a single atrocity — endorsed all the reprehensible policies of the Hitler regime. As a result, he is no more a desirable member of society than were Mengele or Eichmann.

There is, in history, virtually no such thing as simple or clear-cut responsibility. Those who participate in crimes like those committed in the Nazi era are clearly guilty, of course. But the threads of direct and indirect responsibility reach far beyond those who were actually present on the

---

Everyone  
who helped  
implement  
Nazism  
shares  
in the  
collective  
responsibility

---

scene — and it is often hard to decide just how far.

Who was responsible for the annihilation of millions of Jews? Who murdered my grandparents, my five and a half year old brother, my aunts, uncles, cousins? Surely, not only those men and women who were present at Auschwitz, Treblinka and Bergen-Belsen and their immediate superiors. Who bears the responsibility for the "final solution of the Jewish question"? Surely not only those who conceived and actually implemented it. Surely, their comrades, their friends back home, and all those who cheered Adolf Hitler on and allowed his Government to function were also guilty.

Just after the end of World War II,

Gen. George Patton, then the head of the United States military government of Bavaria, said that "this Nazi thing is just like a Democratic and Republican election fight." It was an absurd comparison. The Nazi Party was not just another political party, and Nazism was not just another ideology.

The goal of Hitler's movement was the absolute domination of mankind by the Aryan race. All the rest was trimming — and one could not participate in the Nazi movement without endorsing this central, reprehensible goal.

Mr. Waldheim is virtually certain to be chosen on Sunday as president of Austria — and his election will constitute the most pronounced rehabilitation to date of all those who played an active role in the Nazi establishment.

In his campaign, Mr. Waldheim disingenuously told his compatriots, "Don't let anybody turn your fathers and grandfathers into criminals." Like many others, he wants the world to forget that only a generation ago, tens of thousands of German and Austrian fathers and grandfathers committed the most brutal crimes in history.

Once and for all, it must be understood that the evil of Nazism was absolute — and that all involved participated in that absolute evil. No one involved can claim to be what Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal has called Mr. Waldheim — a mere "opportunist."

If Mr. Waldheim's Nazi past had been known in 1971, it would certainly have prevented him from even being considered for the post of United Nations Secretary General. His unsavory wartime record should now permanently disqualify him from holding public office of any kind. For it is only by unambiguously repudiating anyone and anything associated with Nazism that we may be able to prevent its resurgence in the future.

Kurt Waldheim and everyone else who participated in any way in implementing the Nazi ideology are collectively responsible for the Third Reich's crimes against humanity. In matters of historical responsibility, no one is only a little bit guilty. □



To: Dick Cohen  
30 East 60th St.  
New York, NY

From: Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Re: Kurt Waldheim's election tomorrow

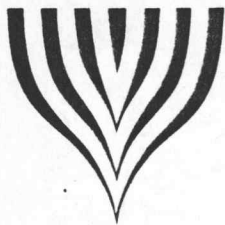
RELEASE ONLY IF HE IS ELECTED.

The country that gave us Adolph Hitler has now chosen one of his early followers as its President. The Austrian people gave lie to their boast that they were but the first victims of Nazi aggression. They were not. The Anschluss was their enthusiastic choice. Subsequent events have taught them nothing.

I call on all freedom loving nations, particularly those which were allied in the struggle against Nazism, to isolate Austria's new President and to bar his entry into their lands.

I also call on the United Nations to review all actions and decisions taken during the Waldheim Years to see how they might have been tainted by his secret devotion to the Nazi cause. I refer particularly to Zionism equals Racism Resolution and Arafat's visit, both of which were managed by Waldheim. Of course, no self-respecting Jewish organization can allow itself to travel to or meet in Austria so long as it is led by a man who was witness to and gave silent assent to genocidal acts and then lied about it.





איחוד  
ליהדות  
מתקדמת  
באמריקה

# Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

## NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Richard Cohen  
(212) 758-6969

*May*

Commenting on news reports that American officials in Rome advised against apprehending Ante Pavelic, the Nazi war criminal who gave a medal to Kurt Waldheim, because of Vatican pressure following World War II, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said Wednesday (May 7):

"These latest revelations, substantiating Vatican complicity in helping Nazi criminals escape prosecution, do not come as a surprise, alas. They merely confirm suspicions of Nazi-Vatican ties which have been reported on many occasions since the end of World War II.

"Happily, subsequent developments within the Catholic Church have dramatically altered its face, especially in its relations to the Jewish people: the pronouncements of Pope John XXIII, the decisions of Vatican II, 'Nostra Aetate' and the like -- crowned as they were by the significant symbol of Pope John Paul II's recent visit to the Rome synagogue.

"These and like events allow us to view the present and the future with greater ease of spirit and we can say: it could not happen now, not in our day.

"The role of our own country in bowing to Vatican pressure in the Pavelic and other cases is also no particular surprise. Not unlike the Church, the U.S. too was ready to make league with ex-Nazis -- scientists, intelligence agents and others -- provided we thought them of use to us in the emerging cold war against the Soviet Union.

"But here too the more recent and determined approach by the Justice Department and other branches of our government give us reason to be more sanguine. The lessons of the past appear to have been learned."

5/7/86

X X X



# Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE -- JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES UNION AMHE

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Richard Cohen  
(212) 758-6969

### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT URGED TO SEARCH U.S. FILES FOR DOCUMENTS ABOUT WALDHEIM'S WARTIME SERVICE

Attorney General Edwin Meese has been urged by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to search "all archives to which our country has access" for documents that would determine the role of former United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim during his wartime service as a German army officer.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the UAHC, said in a letter to Mr. Meese:

"Such a determination is of special importance because it was during Mr. Waldheim's term of office at the UN that the PLO terrorist chief Yasir Arafat was invited to speak from its rostrum, that the infamous 'Zionism-is-racism' resolution was adopted and that the UN itself was turned into an instrument of anti-American bigotry and bias."

The UAHC is composed of 791 Reform synagogues in the United States and Canada with a membership of 1.3 million persons.

In his letter, Rabbi Schindler asked that the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, whose findings have resulted in the expulsion from the U.S. of a number of Nazi war criminals, "inaugurate a full and comprehensive search" of wartime files that would shed light on Mr. Waldheim's alleged Nazi past.

"It would be a grave miscarriage of justice, and an offense to the memory of all those -- Jews and non-Jews alike -- who perished at the hands of the Nazis, to ignore the charges against Mr. Waldheim," Rabbi Schindler wrote. He added:

"Such findings may also place into proper perspective the events at the United Nations during his tenure -- events that served to embarrass our country and make it the target of obloquy and scorn."



# Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE -- JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION  
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

## NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Richard Cohen  
(212) 758-6969

Commenting on news reports that American officials in Rome advised against apprehending Ante Pavelic, the Nazi war criminal who gave a medal to Kurt Waldheim, because of Vatican pressure following World War II, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said Wednesday (May 7):

"These latest revelations, substantiating Vatican complicity in helping Nazi criminals escape prosecution, do not come as a surprise, alas. They merely confirm suspicions of Nazi-Vatican ties which have been reported on many occasions since the end of World War II.

"Happily, subsequent developments within the Catholic Church have dramatically altered its face, especially in its relations to the Jewish people: the pronouncements of Pope John XXIII, the decisions of Vatican II, 'Nostra Aetate' and the like -- crowned as they were by the significant symbol of Pope John Paul II's recent visit to the Rome synagogue.

"These and like events allow us to view the present and the future with greater ease of spirit and we can say: it could not happen now, not in our day.

"The role of our own country in bowing to Vatican pressure in the Pavelic and other cases is also no particular surprise. Not unlike the Church, the U.S. too was ready to make league with ex-Nazis -- scientists, intelligence agents and others -- provided we thought them of use to us in the emerging cold war against the Soviet Union."

"But here too the more recent and determined approach by the Justice Department and other branches of our government give us reason to be more sanguine. The lessons of the past appear to have been learned."

5/7/86

X X X



*May 1986*  
RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER  
PRESIDENT

• UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

April 4, 1986

The Honorable Edwin Meese  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am writing to urge that the Department of Justice do everything within its power to determine the truth of the charges against Kurt Waldheim, the former Secretary General of the United Nations.

Such a determination is of especial importance because it was during Mr. Waldheim's term of office at the UN that the PLO terrorist chief Yasir Arafat was invited to speak from its rostrum, that the infamous "Zionism-is-racism" resolution was adopted and that the UN itself was turned into an instrument of anti-American bigotry and bias.

In the face of recent charges against him, Mr. Waldheim's defense that he was a mere bystander to murder and deportations appears to be unraveling. We do know that he joined a Nazi student group on April 1, 1938, only three weeks after the German Anschluss with Austria. We know that he joined a mounted unit of the Brownshirt S.A. movement (predecessors of the notorious S.S.) on November 18, 1938 -- one week after the terrible Kristallnacht, when 42 of Vienna's 43 synagogues went up in flames and Nazi Brownshirts all over Germany dragged Jews from their homes and shops and beat and tortured them.

I do not write this letter in a spirit of revenge or retribution. But the record must be examined. Accordingly, we urgently request that the Department of Justice press for the opening of all UN archives and direct the Office of Special Investigation to inaugurate a full and comprehensive search of all archives, here and abroad, under the control of the United States or to which our country has access, that would finally determine Mr. Waldheim's role during the Nazi era.

It would be a grave miscarriage of justice, and an offense to the memory of all those -- Jews and non-Jews alike -- who died at the hands of the Nazis, to ignore the charges against Mr. Waldheim. Similarly, the truth about Mr. Waldheim would place into proper perspective the events at the United Nations during his tenure -- events that served to embarrass our country and make it the target of obloquy and scorn.

Let the facts be known. Let the truth be told.

Respectfully,

*Alexander M. Schindler*  
Alexander M. Schindler





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS  
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

April 4, 1986

The Honorable Edwin Meese  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am writing to urge that the Department of Justice do everything within its power to determine the truth of the charges against Kurt Waldheim, the former Secretary General of the United Nations.

Such a determination is of especial importance because it was during Mr. Waldheim's term of office at the UN that the PLO terrorist chief Yasir Arafat was invited to speak from its rostrum, that the infamous "Zionism-is-racism" resolution was adopted and that the UN itself was turned into an instrument of anti-American bigotry and bias.

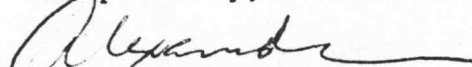
In the face of recent charges against him, Mr. Waldheim's defense that he was a mere bystander to murder and deportations appears to be unraveling. We do know that he joined a Nazi student group on April 1, 1938, only three weeks after the German Anschluss with Austria. We know that he joined a mounted unit of the Brownshirt S.A. movement (predecessors of the notorious S.S.) on November 18, 1938 -- one week after the terrible Kristallnacht, when 42 of Vienna's 43 synagogues went up in flames and Nazi Brownshirts all over Germany dragged Jews from their homes and shops and beat and tortured them.

I do not write this letter in a spirit of revenge or retribution. But the record must be examined. Accordingly, we urgently request that the Department of Justice press for the opening of all UN archives and direct the Office of Special Investigation to inaugurate a full and comprehensive search of all archives, here and abroad, under the control of the United States or to which our country has access, that would finally determine Mr. Waldheim's role during the Nazi era.

It would be a grave miscarriage of justice, and an offense to the memory of all those -- Jews and non-Jews alike -- who died at the hands of the Nazis, to ignore the charges against Mr. Waldheim. Similarly, the truth about Mr. Waldheim would place into proper perspective the events at the United Nations during his tenure -- events that served to embarrass our country and make it the target of obloquy and scorn.

Let the facts be known. Let the truth be told.

Respectfully,

  
Alexander M. Schindler

① 2000 年 1 月 1 日

Three important points:

- Handwritten: *Handwritten*

Handwritten:

- should es

A1- Singer asked Schindler to engage in this effort and Schindler thought it was a nice idea.