

Demjanjuk, who was deported to Israel in 1986 for war crimes in Poland. One reason for the case was to extend de facto U.S. recognition of Israel's claim to legal jurisdiction over all Jews internationally. Hence, Demjanjuk, who had never set foot in Israel, was deported there for crimes he allegedly committed in Poland, before the Israeli state had even come into existence.

Undermining the rule of law

In addition to meeting such political objectives, the OSI has also been used to introduce Nazi-like legal practices into the U.S. court system.

One important achievement was to undermine traditional rules of evidence by allowing the introduction of testimony of witnesses taken from Soviet trials, and the documents of Soviet prosecutorial and intelligence agencies. Moreover, the frequent inability of defense attorneys to question these witnesses, because of Soviet unwillingness or because of the death of the individual, allowed the Justice Department to eliminate the fundamental right of a defendant to confront his accusers.

Even where witnesses have been produced on U.S. soil, the effects have been no less devastating to U.S. law. In most OSI cases, the only witnesses offered in the United States against its victims, have been over-wrought, elderly, former concentration camp inmates, testifying on events that happened at least 35 years earlier, during wartime. In many instances these witnesses had been "discovered" through the aid of special World Jewish Congress and ADL "Nazi-hunting units" that had been established to aid the OSI. In all instances, the OSI cases are surrounded by massive, sensationalist press coverage, of the sort typifying the 1950s McCarthy period.

Moreover, since OSI cases are technically only of a civil nature, dealing formally with denaturalization and deportation, civil rules of evidence apply. Unlike criminal trials, U.S. civil procedures allow the admissibility of hearsay evidence. Yet a person who is convicted in this civil procedure does not suffer merely a fine, but deportation to Russia or Israel, and a long prison term or death. This cynical use of the letter of the law, in violation of its intent, is not the least of the abuses pioneered by the OSI.

Additionally—and this has been one of its main purposes—OSI operations have attempted to criminalize whole generations of Germans and Austrians, as well as many eastern Europeans who lived through World War II. If having merely been a 20-year-old German Army lieutenant, as Waldheim was, can be considered evidence of complicity in Nazi war crimes, then the sky is the limit. Ironically, the refusal of the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal to try the American and British financiers who put Hitler in power, and their exoneration of such central figures as Nazi Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht, makes a mockery of any pretense of putting the final nail in the Nazi coffin.

OSI targets science: the Rudolph case

by Marsha Freeman

Even before the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) came into existence, a major target of the U.S.-Soviet apparatus that created it has been the scientific and military capability of this nation. The targeting of the German scientists who came here voluntarily under Operation Paperclip at the end of World War II with Wernher von Braun, has had the purpose, not of prosecuting Nazi war criminals, but frightening the scientists, attacking the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the entire space program, and destabilizing the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Dr. Rudolph, who was intimidated and blackmailed into leaving the United States and relinquishing his American citizenship in 1984, was not personally targeted because his alleged crimes during the war were particularly heinous. He was singled out because he was 77 years old and in frail health, living in California, isolated from the rest of the German rocket team, 2,000 miles away in Huntsville, Alabama.

The effort to tar the German scientists with a Nazi brush by the East German intelligence agency, the Stasi, started soon after the war, with the conduiting of forged documents by East German agent Julius Mader to the West. These documents consisted of supposed witness testimony alleging Nazi war crimes by various members of the von Braun team. In the 1960s, there were efforts to bring von Braun himself to trial, but these went nowhere, as the nation was in the midst of the Apollo program to land a man on the Moon, for which von Braun was not only a key scientist, but a popular spokesman.

By the early 1980s, however, with von Braun gone, many of the scientists in their later years, and the increasing push from Lyndon LaRouche and advisers to the Reagan White house to develop a "beam weapon" strategic defense against ballistic missiles, the OSI offensive against the German rocket scientists accelerated.

In 1984, the book *Arming the Heavens*, by Jack Manno, made the case quite clearly, by stating that the horrible weapons being developed as part of President Reagan's SDI were initially thought of in the 1940s by "Hitler's Nazi rocket scientists."

In September 1982, Arthur Rudolph received a letter from the OSI asking him to meet with investigators to answer questions about his activities from 1939 through 1945. Though the letter said he could bring a lawyer, Rudolph, believing he had done nothing warranting such treatment, went alone, carrying a bundle of 40-year-old documents. A

year later, after a second interrogation, Rudolph was told by the OSI that the Justice Department had amassed "evidence" to take him to trial for war crimes, even though he had been investigated and cleared for entry to the United States almost 40 years earlier.

The allegations centered around his supervision of the wartime V-2 rocket production in the underground Mittelwerk factory. The purported "evidence," which the OSI refused to show Dr. Rudolph or his lawyer, or later the Bonn government, came from "witnesses" under the direction of Soviet and East German intelligence services.

On March 27, 1984, rather than face a humiliating trial for which he did not have the financial resources or the good health to withstand, doubtful that with his small resources he could find witnesses from the war years who would speak in his defense, and sickened at the thought of embarrassing the other German rocket scientists, Arthur Rudolph gave up the U.S. citizenship he had held since 1954, promised never to come back to America, and left for West Germany. He never pleaded guilty to the charges.

In October 1984, after he had left the country, the Justice Department made the case public. Outrage from the other German scientists, from their former U.S. Army commanding officer Gen. J. Bruce Medaris, from citizens of Huntsville, Alabama where the scientists had worked since the 1950s, from Rep. James Traficant (D-Ohio), from Lyndon and Helga LaRouche and the Fusion Energy Foundation, among others, gave Rudolph second thoughts about his exile.

He requested citizenship from the West German government. Bonn requested the "evidence" against Dr. Rudolph from the OSI, which refused to send the documents. The West German state prosecutor conducted his own investigation of the charges against Rudolph. None of the 100 witnesses brought in from the United States, Australia, and Israel was able to establish his guilt. The nine witnesses which the OSI eventually forwarded to West Germany were found to be unreliable—most of them did not even know Rudolph. In 1988, after three years of investigation, Bonn granted Arthur Rudolph citizenship.

Distinguished science or 'ardent Nazi'?

Was Dr. Rudolph a mad scientist, who joined Wernher von Braun at the German Army's Peenemünde wartime laboratory, with the life-long ambition of destroying western civilization? Actually, he came to Peenemünde with von Braun and a handful of other young scientists, who, since the late 1920s, had been conducting amateur rocket experiments. Under the guidance of Prof. Hermann Oberth, the father of German rocket science, they were planning to design a rocket that could some day go to the Moon.

If von Braun and his team were "ardent Nazis," as the OSI stated, why did von Braun spend time in an SS prison, accused of sabotaging the war effort, when Heinrich Himmler found out that von Braun's advanced projects team was



Dr. Arthur Rudolph stands before his Saturn V rocket at Cape Canaveral.

designing manned lunar vehicles?

And what did "ardent Nazi" Arthur Rudolph do once he gained entry to the United States? As a propulsion expert, he helped design the Pershing intermediate-range ballistic missile, which was deployed by NATO to defend western Europe from the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact. When it was upgraded to the Pershing II, which became the subject of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty negotiations, Arthur Rudolph helped the redesign.

When the rocket team was transferred to the newly established civilian NASA program in 1960, Dr. Rudolph led the design of the massive Saturn V rocket. This rocket, with 7 million pounds of thrust, was the enabling technology to beat the Soviets to the Moon. For Rudolph and the entire German team, it was the culmination of more than 40 years of experimentation and hard work.

As residents of Huntsville, Alabama, Dr. Rudolph and the entire team of German rocket specialists brought European culture to a Southern cotton town. Within a few years, as the space program and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center were growing by leaps and bounds, Huntsville became home to an astronomical observatory, a symphony orchestra, an art museum, and the largest space museum in the nation, organized by the von Braun group.

When he retired from NASA in 1969, Rudolph received the agency's highest honor—the Distinguished Service Medal. During his career, Rudolph had shaken the hand of three American Presidents. In October 1984, when the Justice Department announced that Rudolph had left the country, NASA was pressured to take back the medals it had given Rudolph, which it refused to do. The press smeared the space agency as having been run by former Nazis.

Media smear campaign

Not only NASA was to be smeared by the press with the “ardent Nazi” brush, for having been associated with Arthur Rudolph. The “victory” the OSI obtained through threats and blackmail in the Rudolph case allowed a constant media stream of slanders of Nazism and anti-Semitism against anyone who came to Dr. Rudolph’s defense. This included not only Lyndon LaRouche and affiliated publications such as *Fusion* magazine, but, by association, anyone who had ever written for *Fusion*, such as Dr. Krafft Ehrlicke and Dr. Fred Winterberg.

One of the most dogged proponents of the Justice Department charges against, and harassment of, the German rocket team has been writer Linda Hunt, whom this author met in the spring of 1985 at a reunion of the rocket team in Huntsville. There, as she recounts in her recent book *Secret Agenda*, Hunt was outraged at this reporter, who was at the time a reporter for the now-defunct *Fusion*, for stating at a press conference that the “witchhunt against the leading space scientists of the United States is nothing less than a Soviet plot to destroy the military-scientific accomplishments of the U.S.”

Hunt’s book, picturing Rudolph on the cover, presents *no* new evidence against him. She argues that there was no need to bring these scientists with “questionable” backgrounds into the United States after the war, because there was no threat that the Soviet Union would snatch these brilliant minds to use for its own military efforts. This thesis, which was completely disproven 45 years ago when the Soviets kidnaped thousands of scientists for that purpose, is an odd defense of the Soviet Union to raise when one is supposedly trying to prove that the scientists were a security threat to the United States!

A year ago, Arthur Rudolph went to Canada, as a first step to try to regain entry to the United States, to have his case heard in public. Representative Traficant, who traveled to Canada to meet with Dr. Rudolph, has tried to have the case investigated and reopened by the Congress. After pressure had been duly exerted by the U.S. Justice Department and the various “Nazi-hunting” groups, the Canadian government caved in and refused Dr. Rudolph an entry visa. He is still in Hamburg, Germany, awaiting his day in court.

Other members of the German rocket team are still being hounded by “investigators” from the OSI. But if this Justice Department unit must now, under pressure, make public the manner in which its investigations and persecutions have been carried out, it is possible there will be both a hearing of the Rudolph case, and an end to the harassment of the men who put Americans on the Moon.

It will end one of the most shameful episodes in the judicial history of this nation, in which men who devoted their entire lives to accomplishing one of the greatest technological feats in the history of mankind, were accused wrongly for political purposes, threatened, and terrorized, by a United States they came to by choice, because of their commitment to the goal of opening up the exploration and development of space for mankind.

How Edgar Bronfman earned his gold medal

by Scott Thompson

Edgar Miles Bronfman, a leading figure in many of the witch-hunts conducted by the Office of Special Investigations, was among the top collaborators of the KGB and East German intelligence (the Stasi) in the West. Whiskey baron Bronfman of the Seagram’s empire has promoted the “Big Lie” tactics of the OSI and communist intelligence organs, both as head of the World Jewish Congress and as an honorary vice-chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith (ADL).

One of the most infamous cases in which Bronfman has been involved is that of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who was banned from entering the United States in 1986, on unsubstantiated charges that, as a 20-year-old lieutenant in the Wehrmacht during World War II, he was responsible for war crimes.

A review of the Waldheim case, and other leading cases in which Bronfman has been involved with the OSI, begins to show why on Oct. 17, 1988, now-deposed East German dictator Erich Honecker awarded Bronfman the Gold Star of People’s Friendship, the G.D.R.’s highest civilian honor.

● **Arthur Rudolph.** When Moscow railed that President Ronald Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative was a *casus belli*, Bronfman and the OSI worked in tandem to drive rocket scientist Dr. Arthur Rudolph, who was then engaged in SDI-related research, out of the United States. The WJC’s governing board adopted a resolution at its January 1985 meeting in Vienna for Jews to oppose “space weapons.” Bronfman suggested that the Soviets complement their psychological warfare against “Star Wars” with an effort to liberalize Jewish emigration, to “undercut cold warriors on both sides.” Bronfman gave WJC support to a Soviet intelligence operation against American scientists developing the new systems, namely Dr. Rudolph, who was falsely accused of “Nazi war crimes” by the OSI within months of President Reagan’s March 23, 1983 SDI speech (see preceding article).

● **The Bitburg affair.** When in April 1985, President Ronald Reagan indicated that, while visiting in West Germany, he would pay his respects to German war dead at the cemetery at Bitburg, the WJC charged that two Nazi SS officers were buried there and that it would go on an international mobilization to stop the visit. After that campaign, Bronfman, who had been talking to Soviet official Aleksandr Sukharev, announced that he was traveling to Moscow to obtain an increase in Russian Jewish emigration to Israel. Sukharev was the Russian Republic’s justice minister, and he