



Therefore, we need to have our (Nazi) comrades develop close and friendly relations with immigration and customs police in each locality.'

In West Germany, 297 identified Nazis hold police and security positions.

When Portugal's government was overthrown last April it came to light that one Col. Fernando D. da Silva Pais, the head of Portugal's terrorist police, had been trained by the Nazis. Pais, for many years, was also the head of Interpol in Portugal.

FORGOTTEN PAST

In any examination of Interpol's role in the world of crime today, this past has to be examined, for the controversial nature of many of Interpol's activities relate to the personalities involved, and actions taken by its leadership.

Its role in Nazi history is usually omitted from official Interpol histories which leap in time from 1938-1946. Some scholars and writers, however, have taken a new interest in Interpol, its history and the presence of Nazis in law enforcement and the effect that might have on Interpol's present behaviour.

One Interpol official recently claimed that 'One look at the past and we can have confidence in Interpol's future'. If the past includes Wannsee (1942), Czechoslovakia (1950), and Portugal (1974), 'confidence' is an eerie prospect indeed.

DAYS OF YORE

The broad, public image so carefully fostered, nurtured and cultivated by Interpol's Pros across the world, is that of an organization indulging in the romantic adventures of chasing smugglers, counterfeiters, and men in striped jerseys rustling bags labelled 'swag'.

Nothing could be further from the truth: for not only is international crime on the increase, but Interpol tampers in fields expressly forbidden to it under its charter.

The romantic days — the cigar smelling, leather seated Hispano Suizas roaring through the Corniche to Monte Carlo, hotly pursued by short, fat detectives complete with small dark mustaches — those days are over. Today's Interpol detective is likely to be something quite different. With its world headquarters outside Paris, Interpol has managed to maintain an image of effective police work that has only recently begun to crumble. Behind the front lies a history they have unsuccessfully sought to erase.

HITLER'S TOOL

For seven years, from 1938-1945, Interpol belonged to Adolf Hitler.

Interpol's files and network proved to be a boon to the Nazis. As each city was taken, commando groups were instructed to gather every police file they could find. Interpol began to 'centralize' beyond its wildest dreams.

On December 8, 1941, notice was given to member countries that Interpol was moving to Wannsee, a wealthy suburb of Berlin. Artur Nebe, head of the Nazi Kriminalpolizei (KRIPO), was to head it up. Dr. Carlos Zindel, later to play an important role in Interpol's postwar formation, was appointed as 'special counsellor' to Reinhard Heydrich, head of the Gestapo and president of Interpol. The note announced that 'under its new German leadership (Interpol) would be a real centre of criminal police.'

As the Nazi machinery moved into high gear, the 'Jewish problem' required a 'solution'. To that effect, Heydrich called

the meeting of top Nazi officials on January 20, 1942, in Interpol's new offices. The 'final solution' was presented during the meeting lasting 4 hours. Lunch was served — drinks were taken — cigars were smoked.

Given the number of Jews, Gypsies and others deemed 'criminal' the matter fell heavily upon KRIPO and other police agencies to handle the roundup and deportation of 6 million to the camps.

While the programme went into effect Heydrich ordered a new publication on *The International Police Commission and its Work* to be printed. Oscar Dressler Interpol's Secretary-General since 1924 consented and worked with Heydrich on the book.

After Heydrich's assassination in 1942 Ernst Kaltenbrunner took over and completed the task.

NON-POLITICAL

In addition to wars on drugs, prostitution and counterfeiting, Interpol has also declared war in that publication on 'the Gypsy nuisance'.

Credit is given for this entry to 'the Austrian government' who brought it to Interpol's attention: Dressler, the Secretary-General, and most of the Interpol hierarchy were Austrian. Before the Second World War, Interpol was located in Vienna.

Since the extermination of Jews had not become full public knowledge and Gypsies were also one of the targets for the Nazis 'solution', Interpol's 'war' on them can now be seen in its most sinister aspects. Despite reassurances in the publication that Gypsies were not being attacked *per se* restrictions were laid down for political rights, no children of school age to travel with them, can only live in designated areas, can have no weapons — and files are