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# Life of Mengele' Unfolds: Music and Few Visitors

Continued From Page A1

The Bosserts was the same person who was found in the cemetery at Embu. The corpse was the same as the one who was found in the cemetery at Embu. The corpse was the same as the one who was found in the cemetery at Embu.

Israeli police official responsible for the Mengele case, arrived here to take part in the investigation after first characterizing the disclosures as a probable hoax. Accounts by more than a dozen people who say they knew Dr. Mengele as Pedro or another alias have produced a wealth of detail on the man's personality and daily habits, his fears, his quirks and, in one instance, his heartbreak.

## His Contacts Were Few

The accounts include these: The man identified as Dr. Mengele lived out from all but a few local friends and rare visits from his son, whom he befriended as his nephew, and a family company emissary. He got no direct mail, had no telephone and kept no bank accounts.

While still living in Argentina or Paraguay, he reportedly refused to leave Germany for his father's funeral in 1959, but after moving to Brazil in 1961 he never left his residences for more than a day or two. He was suspicious of strangers and, according to a neighbor, slept with a Mauser pistol by his bed.

He enjoyed musical evenings at the homes of his few friends, including two families who came to share the secret of his past, but he never discussed the war.

He kept secret the fact that he had been a physician — and that the West Germans had revealed his medical degree in the 1970's for his grisly human experiments at Auschwitz — but he did treat farm animals.

Near the end of his life he fell in love with a housemaid who says he wanted her to live with him, but he declined to marry her — perhaps because he was still married to his second wife, now living in Merano, Italy — and although she says she also loved him, she left to marry another man.

## He Was From an Austrian

According to the accounts, the man identified as Dr. Mengele arrived in Brazil from Paraguay in 1961 and was taken in hand by an Austrian, Wolfgang Gerhard, who had served in the German Wehrmacht in World War II, had been living in Graz, Austria.

In 1961, Mr. Gerhard introduced his friend as Peter Hochbichler, a Swiss, to Greta and Gitta Stammer, Hungarians who had spent the war in Budapest and in 1948 settled in Brazil. Mr. Stammer was a surveyor who took property in payment for some of his work and the Stammers agreed to let "Peter" manage a small farm of theirs in the Austrian and German colony of Nova Europa in Araraquara, about 200 miles northwest of São Paulo, where the Stammers had moved in 1959.

In 1962, the Stammers moved to another farm at Serra Negra, about a hundred miles from São Paulo, and "Peter" followed. It was there, Mr. Stammer said, that he happened to see a newspaper photograph of Dr. Mengele of Auschwitz and questioned the visitor about him. He said he first denied the connection, she told the police, but that evening acknowledged he was Dr. Mengele. He ended up living under the family's protection for the next dozen years.

In a lengthy interview with The New York Times in her hilltop home this week, Mrs. Stammer said Mr. Gerhard threatened the family if they gave away the secret. She also said an Austrian told them: "You used to be nobodies, unknown. Now a great thing has happened in your life. You are now famous. But she also said the man she knew as Dr. Mengele never threatened the family himself but rather had child Mr. Gerhard for doing so.

## Untroubled by His Presence

Mrs. Stammer, in recounting the story, did not appear horrified or troubled at having had the death-camp doctor at a house guest. She recalled playing the piano for him and cooking Hungarian dishes he liked. She said he repeatedly promised to leave but always stayed on.

"The people in Hungary didn't know what happened until later," she said when questioned about Nazi atrocities. But she also said she had trouble believing Dr. Mengele could have been as

she said she did not feel guilty about having sheltered him because the family had been "manipulated" into helping him.

Mrs. Stammer, who said the family was Roman Catholic, said she heard Dr. Mengele say the Jews were working against Germany and were a foreign group that the Germans wanted out of the country. She also said that he once mentioned having contracted typhus at Auschwitz but that otherwise he avoided any discussion of his past.

The 65-year-old woman, speaking in Portuguese through an interpreter and occasionally in German, said "Dr. Mengele seemed to like the children" but sometimes antagonized her two sons with authoritarian ideas on how they should be brought up.

## Observation Tower on Roof

Other witnesses in Serra Negra told the police that the Stammer farm had an eight-foot observation tower on the roof and that the visitor used to go up there with binoculars to scan the countryside. The period coincides with the time Dr. Mengele was being intensively hunted by the Israelis, who missed capturing him at the same time they seized Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires in 1960.

Near the Stammers' farm at Nova Europa, the police say, they found a farm worker who had assisted Dr. Mengele in his operations. The worker, Francisco de Sousa, described the operation as expert, with the complete recovery of the calf.

In 1969, the Stammers moved to another farm in Cuiabá, closer to São Paulo, and again their guest followed. He stayed with them until 1974, when



The New York Times, Ralph Blumenthal

Ines Mellich, above, who served as housemaid to the man believed to be Josef Mengele, said he sometimes had trouble sleeping. A neighbor, Jaime Martins dos Santos, with his son at left, told of how "Mr. Pedro" kept a pistol near his bed. Elsa Gulpan de Oliveira wore the shawl given to her by "Mr. Pedro," who, she said, told her that he loved her.

he moved into a small yellow stucco house also owned by the Stammers on Alvaranga Street in an outlying area of São Paulo called Eldorado.

During all the time "Peter" was with them, Mrs. Stammer said, "he didn't receive anything from his family."

"They just threw him out," she said with some indignation.

## At Father's Funeral

She said he told her that he attended his father's funeral in 1959 in the family's home town of Gussburg, West Germany — Dr. Mengele was not wanted by the Bonn Government until later — and that while he was home he arranged to renounce his inheritance and leave the money due him invested in the family's large farm machinery manufacturing company, Karl Mengele & Sons.

Mrs. Stammer also said, in response to a question, that Dr. Mengele had been taken into custody after the war by the Americans or the British — she recalled it was probably the Americans — but that he said he was released when he did not appear on any wanted list.

Previous reports that Dr. Mengele may have been arrested by the Amer-

ican early 60's and for three days in the early 70's to bring Dr. Mengele altogether about \$7,000 in United States dollars.

Mrs. Stammer said Dr. Mengele suffered from ailments, including a chronic swelling of his left leg, rheumatism in his hands and migraine headaches.

The man identified as the Nazi doctor was also briefly hospitalized for a stroke in 1970, according to accounts given the police here.

About 1970, just after the Stammers and their guest moved to Cuiabá, the police say, Wolfgang Gerhard introduced Dr. Mengele as Peter Gerhard, an Austrian widower with a questionable political past, to Wolfram and Liselotte Bossert, Austrians who had moved to Brazil in 1952. Soon, the Bosserts said, they became "Peter's" closest friends, sharing his secret.

Often, the Bosserts said, "Peter" would visit them in their house at 7 Misour Street in São Paulo for evenings of music and conversation. The friendship continued after "Peter" moved to the Stammers' yellow stucco house on Alvaranga Street, where he lived until the drowning.

## Kept Gun by the Bed

The house — which the Stammers said he had been taken into custody after the war by the Americans or the British — she recalled it was probably the Americans — but that he said he was released when he did not appear on any wanted list.

Across the street, a retired metal worker, Jaime Martins dos Santos, said that he knew his German neighbor only as Mr. Pedro and that they had spent much time together. He said "Mr. Pedro" had a Mauser that he would keep by day in a locked box in his bedroom and at night by the bed.

The neighbor also said "Mr. Pedro" liked to show off his records and tapes and had once introduced him to his "nephew," who apparently was Rom, the Mengele son.

He described "Mr. Pedro" as sometimes moody and a man who would make remarks disparaging both people. But he said the man never made any reference to Jews.

## Partial to the Housemaid

He and others said "Mr. Pedro" was clearly most partial to the former housemaid, Ines Mellich, daughter of Mrs. de Oliveira, a thin-faced 34-year-old woman with bleached hair, confirmed in an interview that the man she also knew as Mr. Pedro in 1977 and 1978 had told her he loved her and wanted her to move in with him.

She said she had never been in a white wooden shack that she said he had given her on Nov. 4, 1978. She said that they never had an intimate physical relationship.

She acknowledged with a shy laugh that she had loved him too but had insisted on getting married, which, she said, he had declined to do. She said she had asked him often whether he was married and that he swore to her, he was not but that he could not tell her why he could not marry her. When she was in Germany in 1978, she said, he became annoyed and depressed.

Another maid who took over the house then, Ines Mellich, said "Mr.

Pedro" clearly pined for Mrs. de Oliveira. Once, Mrs. Mellich said, she sneaked a look at a diary "Mr. Pedro" was keeping and saw the phrase in German, "Elsa has beautiful hands."

## Addicted to "Disneyland"

A former gardener at the house on Alvaranga Street, Luis Rodrigues, said "Mr. Pedro" was lonely and often invited him to sit with him in the house late into the evening. He said the man long resisted buying a television set but finally succumbed and soon became addicted to watching "Disneyland," a popular Sunday television show, and a soap opera called "Slave Island," about a slave girl.

Mrs. Mellich, the second maid, said "Mr. Pedro" had trouble sleeping and would often spend the night reading and writing. Once, she said, he apparently became frightened and knocked on the door of her adjoining cottage after midnight to make sure she was there.

The man they knew as "Mr. Pedro" was nearly hit by a bus on the steep hill in front of his house. He may have started to sway and faint as the bus approached, the gardener recalled, and was slammed into the wall of the man's arm. Another time, Mrs. Mellich recalled, he nearly fell in the well behind the house.

## Fateful Beach Outing

The Bosserts had arranged an outing at nearby Bertioga Beach for the weekend of Feb. 7, 1979, but "Mr. Pedro" agonized over whether to go. Mrs. Mellich recalled. She said she told him that the outing would relax him and recharge his batteries. He replied, "going to the beach because my life is ending."

He took the public bus and met the Bosserts there. At the beach, the Bosserts told the police, their friend appeared to have a stroke in the water and drowned despite the efforts of Mr. Bossert to save him.

Witnesses have now told the police they saw a man fitting Dr. Mengele's description lying unconscious on the beach surrounded by the Bosserts. But in one possible point of conflict, several accounts have the drowned man clean-shaven, while those who saw "Mr. Pedro" on Alvaranga Street the day he left for the beach agree he had his usual bushy mustache. Whether he might have shaved it off at a hair salon here has been established.

In the continuing police investigation, Mr. Tuma, the federal police chief in São Paulo, said today, "I think the Bosserts had a certain veneration for Mengele as a great leader." And they had, he added, "a special affection for him," keeping his letters and other belongings in a special place in their home.

Mr. Tuma also said it appeared that Wolfgang Gerhard had given them "the reason of introducing him to Mengele to Brazil." But he said he did not know who might have given him such a mission.

# Walters Starts U.N. Tenure on the Offensive

By ELAINE SCIOGLINO

Special to The New York Times  
UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 13 — Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters made his debut in the Security Council today and delivered a scathing attack against what he called the misrepresentation of American policy by some European nations.

General Walters, who became the chief American delegate last month, had not been one of the scheduled speakers in the Security Council debate on South-West Africa, which is also known as Namibia. But the former ambassador-at-large used his right of reply in defense of American policy.

General Walters said some delegates "deliberately and falsely represented the policies of my country for propagandistic purposes," adding, "The

United States yields to no one in its support of Namibian independence."

"Countries which suppress opposition to their own policies are not qualified to judge the functioning of democracy," he added. "The Reagan Administration, whether people like it or not, is the Government of the United States, so closely free by the American people in a free election."

General Walters also hoped to arrange the secret negotiations in Paris between Henry A. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam, singled out for criticism.

Mr. Chung had charged that the United States was "intransigent" and, in a reference to the Vietnam War, said, "the Vietnamese people enjoyed the sympathy and support of the American people."

General Walters told the Security Council, "I hope the Vietnamese delegate's sympathy for countries occupied by communist forces is not the sympathy of the neighboring people of Cambodia."

After the debate he was asked if his speech had set the tone for his tenure as chief U.N. negotiator. "When somebody attacks the United States and its interests and purposes and policies, it is my duty to respond," he replied.

## 40 Drown in Boat Accident

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION  
(Reuters) — Forty people drowned when a boat traveling from the Ivory Coast to Ghana sank last night. The Ghana news agency reported today. One of the 39 survivors said the boat was overturned when the accident occurred, the news agency said in the report monitored here.