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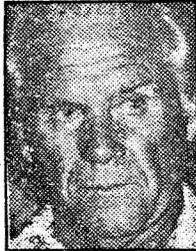
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## U.S. judge denies bond for Nazi suspect in Dade

MARILYN A. MOORE  
Miami News Reporter

A U.S. immigration judge in Miami today denied bond for an alleged war criminal accused of collaborating with the Nazis in killing thousands of Latvian Jews during World War II. The judge said he feared the man would "go underground again."

Konrads Kalejs, 71, who was arrested in Miami Beach last Friday, will continue being held at Krome Detention Camp in Southwest Dade, pending a preliminary hearing May 15. Kalejs' lawyer, Ivars Berzins of Babylon, N.Y., said he would appeal the bond denial at the hearing.



Kalejs

Immigration Judge Keith Williams ruled out a request for bond after a one hour hearing at the camp, during which Jeffrey Mausner of the U.S. Justice Department Office of Special Investigations said Kalejs "engaged in a massive effort to avoid arrest." He said Kalejs lacks family ties and has a personal net worth of several hundred thousand dollars.

In an affidavit entered into the court file by the government, prosecutors said Kalejs admitted under oath that he served as a commander of a police unit that served a German SS general.

The affidavit said Kalejs "admitted" he served as first lieutenant in a SS grenadier battalion and also admitted that he "had misrepresented and concealed these facts" when he applied for a visa to enter the United States in 1958.

His lawyer had sought unsuccessfully to have the

affidavit excluded from the proceedings, saying it was "highly prejudicial."

Wearing a government-issued orange jumpsuit, Kalejs sat quietly throughout the hearing.

Mausner said Kalejs owns a home in Winnetka, Ill., a Chicago suburb, and is a part-owner of two condominiums in Fort Lauderdale and one in St. Petersburg. He also has several hundred thousand dollars in certificates of deposit, Mausner said.

The government lawyer said he owns the condominiums in conjunction with Austra Kalnins, a resident of St. Petersburg. Mausner added that Kalnins has been charged with harboring a fugitive for "aiding and abetting" Kalejs during the last two years.

Kalnins and her daughter lived with Kalejs,

Please see NAZI SUSPECT, 6A



Illustration by artist Ken Hughes

In illustration from today's hearing, suspect Kalejs is at far left; judge is 2nd from right

## NAZI SUSPECT, from 1A

Mausner said. Kalnins was arrested last week in Chicago, it was revealed in court today.

Verzins argued that Kalejs should be released on a "reasonable bond" because he has roots in this country going back 25 years, has engaged in no illegal activities, is a model citizen and has "modest nest egg for his old age."

He also said Kalejs' health is "below average for his age" but did not specify any specific health problems.

Verzins also said Kalejs and Kalnins went to Australia last year and returned to the U.S., showing that Kalejs would appear at future government hearings and not disappear.

"My client has bruised the over-inflated egos of the attorneys with the Office of Special Investigations," Verzins said. "I don't hold their ill will against them. It's natural and human."

"The allegations span a time period of two generations, practically," the attorney added.

Verzins asked that future government hearings be moved to Chicago, where he said Kalejs lives.

Kalejs' alleged war crimes were not detailed in court.

Mausner said Kalejs came to the U.S. from Australia, where he is a citizen.

He said Kalejs' sister, Olga, brought him here under an expedited proceeding, made possible because she was already a U.S. resident. Mausner said Kalejs told

U.S. officials at the time that he had been a farm worker and laborer in Latvia.

The Justice Department office of special investigations started checking into Kalejs' background in late 1983 or 1984, Mausner said.

Mausner said the government repeatedly tried to contact Kalejs in 1984, but failed.

Kalejs is accused by Justice Department officials of being a senior lieutenant at the Salaspils concentration camp in Latvia during World War II.

In March 1942, Kalejs allegedly directed the destruction of the Latvian village of Sanniki and its surrounding villages, in which soldiers killed the entire civilian population, according to an announcement of his arrest in Miami Beach by Assistant Attorney General Stephen S. Trott and U.S. Marshal Service Director Stanley E. Morris.

A year before, Kalejs is said to have served as a first lieutenant and company commander in the Arajs Kommando, the Latvia Security Auxiliary Police commanded by Victors Arajs, during the Nazi occupation of the small nation on the Baltic Sea that is now a part of the Soviet Union.

A Justice Department statement released during the weekend in Washington also says he was a member of a Nazi elite group dedicated to exterminating "racially undesirable" people and other enemies of Germany.

In 1980, Arajs was convicted by a West German court of the murder of at least 13,000 people during the Nazi occupation of Latvia. He is serving a life sentence in West Germany.

In 1944, Kalejs joined the Nazi's 15th SS Grenadier Battalion of the Latvian Legion, according to the Justice Department.

Kalejs became a permanent resident alien of the U.S. in 1959 after arriving from Australia. Officials said, however, that he lied during his entry and failed to disclose his service in the Nazi groups. They say he described himself on his visa as a "farm laborer."

Federal marshals and county police found Kalejs at Rosemary Apartments in Miami Beach — a city that is home to the nation's second-largest collection of Holocaust survivors.

As INS officials pressed their suit to deport Kalejs, the former Chicago builder fled to Canada. From there he traveled to Australia and then back to Vancouver, British Columbia, and Toronto, renting rooms from an elderly Latvian couple, according to U.S. Marshal John Pasucci of Tampa.

Pasucci also said in court that authorities found "a life's worth of documents" in the tire well of an Olds Cutlass jointly owned by Kalejs and Kalnins. The documents, which would have given Kalejs a new identity, were made out in the name of C. Mikelsen.