

# Hold Nazi collaborator, U.S. says

By FABIOLA SANTIAGO  
Herald Staff Writer

U.S. Deputy Attorney General Lowell Jensen, in an unusual action, has ruled that immigration authorities can continue to detain suspected Nazi collaborator Konrads Kalejs without bond at the Krome Avenue camp in West Dade.

The ruling overturned a Board of Immigration Appeals ruling last week setting bond at \$750,000. Signed in Washington, D.C., Saturday, it is the latest legal maneuver by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Office of Special Investigations to keep Kalejs, 72, jailed until he can be deported.

"They feel it's very important," Justice

Department spokesman John Russell said Monday. "The Office of Special Investigations feels that the bond is not high enough. They think he can meet that and he has proven by his actions in the past to be fugitive. There is a risk of flight and there is no proof forthcoming on his part to show why he would not be a risk."

Kalejs, who co-owns property in Fort Lauderdale, St. Petersburg and a Chicago suburb, is accused of helping the Nazi SS kill thousands of Jews after the German invasion of his native Latvia during World War II.

He was arrested at a Miami Beach hotel last April after investigators followed his

trail, mostly among Latvian communities across the country, for 3½ months.

The INS wants to deport him to Australia, where he is a citizen, for lying about his past in his application for permanent U.S. residency in 1959. His deportation hearing is scheduled for Sept. 30.

In court affidavits, his attorney, Ivars Berzins of Babylon, N.Y., has said Kalejs is willing to tie up his hundreds of thousands of dollars in assets in exchange for his release from Krome. Before he appealed to the Washington-based Board of Immigration Appeals, an INS judge and INS Miami district director Perry Rivkind had denied

him bond.

Kalejs and his attorney have repeatedly refused comment.

"Mr. Berzins does not speak with reporters," a secretary said Monday.

Russell said the Justice Department's criminal division has the right to review Board of Immigration Appeals rulings, but added, "It's unusual . . . not used often."

INS officials confirmed that the attorney general's involvement in such cases is rare. Deputy Attorney General Jensen was acting in behalf of Attorney General Edwin Meese III, whose father died Friday.

Kalejs still could appeal the bond decision in federal district court, Rivkind said.

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