

# Accused Nazi in Costa Rica finds refuge from Soviets

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SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Meet Bohdan Koziy, the accused Nazi war criminal and former Fort Lauderdale motel owner that no country seems to want.

The Israelis say he's small potatoes, not worth the bother of an extradition request. The Soviets say they may be willing to take him back, but they aren't asking for his extradition. The Americans, who were about to deport him when he fled to Costa Rica, certainly don't want him back.

And the Costa Ricans say the 62-year-old Koziy apparently entered their country legally. Despite his dark past, they may have little choice but to let him stay in this tiny and peaceful Central American nation.

Right now, Costa Rican authorities are poring over more than seven pounds of sworn statements, videotapes and microfilm from the U.S. Justice Department outlining the charges against Koziy.

A former Ukrainian police officer, Koziy is alleged to have collaborated with the Nazi SS during World War II. He has been linked to the death of at least 10 Ukrainian Jews and is accused of "single-handedly" murdering a 4-year-old girl.

## Looking for proof

Costa Rican Immigrations Director Daniel Leon Nunez said last week that he has found no legal grounds to deport Koziy because his immigration papers are in order, although he is still reviewing several "irregularities" in the papers.

Leon said that proof of Koziy's Nazi past could give the authorities the grounds they need to deport him from Costa Rica, but only "if we are sure he is a Nazi criminal."

Koziy's Costa Rican lawyer, Carlos Ibarra Garcia, says, however, that Costa Rican authorities have no "substantive" evidence against his client.

"The Soviet Union has a factory where they produce so-called evidence to use against men like my father," Koziy's son, Yarko, 41, said in a telephone interview from his home in Santa Fe, N.M.

## Soviet tactics

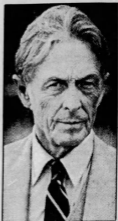
Yarko Koziy said evidence linking his father to the Nazis was concocted by the Soviets to malign vehemently anti-Communist Eastern European emigres.

"Eastern European immigrant groups pose a threat to the Soviets," the younger Koziy said. "They represent a continual cry against the Soviet Union and for the sovereignty of their own people."

Defense attorney Ibarra also pointed out that Koziy has committed no crime in Costa Rica. He added that no other country has asked for the alleged Nazi's extradition, nor has any country, in-

## REPORT FROM COSTA RICA

The family of Bohdan Koziy (right) says that evidence linking him to the Nazis was concocted by the Soviets to malign vehemently anti-Communist Eastern European emigres. "Eastern European immigrant groups pose a threat to the Soviets," Koziy's son said.



cluding the United States, Israel and the Soviet Union, agreed to take in Koziy if he's expelled from Costa Rica.

A Soviet Embassy official in San Jose said his country is "waiting to see what the Costa Ricans want to do with Koziy." And an Israeli Embassy official said his country does not plan to ask for extradition, saying that Koziy is not regarded as a "high level" Nazi criminal.

"During the war Koziy was only 18 or 19 years old, and certainly not in a position of any importance," the Israeli official said.

While Koziy refused an interview request, his lawyer told reporters that he is "confident" his client will be allowed to remain in the country he has called home for the last 10 months.

Before coming to Costa Rica, Koziy lived a peaceful life in Fort Lauderdale where he and his wife ran a modest motel called the Flying Cloud.

But in 1979, U.S. Justice Department officials, who had begun an extensive search for Nazi war criminals residing in the United States, discovered Koziy's Nazi past and began legal proceedings against him.

A federal judge revoked Koziy's U.S. citizenship in 1982, ruling that the Ukrainian had lied to immigration authorities about his Nazi past when he first arrived in the United States in 1949 as a displaced person.

But while U.S. authorities moved to expel Koziy to the Soviet Union, which had not asked for his extradition but agreed to receive him, the motel owner fled to Costa Rica Oct. 28, entering the country with a tourist visa issued in his own name.

Koziy was later granted residency in Costa Rica as a dependent of his wife, Yarslova Ostipiak, who had flown to the country earlier.

She had been granted resident status as a rentista, a special category under which foreigners — most of them retired Americans — can become residents if they have a guaranteed income of at least \$300 a month from foreign investments.

Koziy and his wife lived in a large Spanish colonial home about 25 miles outside the capital city of San Jose. Neighbors say the couple spent most of their time meticulously tending their garden. The home, one of four Costa Rican residences listed for Koziy, is owned by his daughter, Vera, and her Italian husband.

## Jewish outrage

Costa Rica's small but influential Jewish community has expressed outrage at Koziy's presence. The wife of President Luis Alberto Monge is Jewish and could play an important role in determining Koziy's fate, according to one prominent Costa Rican Jew.

"If he remains here, it would disgrace Costa Rica's long tradition as a free and open society," he added.

Koziy isn't the first wanted man to seek cover in Costa Rica.

Fugitive American financier Robert Vesco lived here from 1972 to 1978. Mexican marijuana king Rafael Caro Quintero, wanted for the murder of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agent, was captured here this spring. And more than 20 U.S. citizens, wanted on charges ranging from drug trafficking to business swindles, have been detained here and extradited to the United States.

Authorities say the reasons for Costa Rica's popularity among fugitives are simple: Unlike most of the rest of Central America, this country has no domestic political violence, and, therefore, little need for a tight security apparatus.