

Bonn applies for extradition of Eichmann aide from Syria

BONN (Reuter). - West Germany has requested the extradition from Syria of Alois Brunner, a former SS captain and aide to Adolf Eichmann alleged to have deported more than 78,000 Jews to extermination camps during World War Two.

A Justice Ministry official said the extradition request was made to the Syrian Foreign Ministry on December 18 after French Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld presented evidence that the Austrian-born Brunner was living in Damascus.

The Bonn Justice Ministry said it had not yet received a reply from Syria.

Klarsfeld said he had located Brunner in Damascus in 1982 and went there in June of that year to confront him.

"A visa was refused and I was expelled, but I confirmed Brunner's location under the assumed name of

Dr Georg Fischer."

Klarsfeld said Brunner, now 72, was Eichmann's secretary in Vienna in 1938 when Eichmann headed the Nazi Central Office for Jewish Questions and later headed the office himself.

He is said to have deported 46,000 Jews from Greece, 20,000 from France and an unspecified number from Berlin and Austria and sent them to extermination camps inside the Third Reich.

Klarsfeld said that while commandant of the Drancy concentration camp in France, Brunner personally ordered the arrest and deportation' on July 31, 1944, of more than 300 children, none of whom was ever seen again.

Klarsfeld alleged Brunner then went on to the Sered camp in Czechoslovakia, from where 13,500 Slovak Jews were deported.