



## *The Betty Letters*

*My Dear Grandchild,*

*I was really tickled when I read that California's Governor, Mr Arnold Schwarzenegger, had taken umbrage when his Austrian hometown of Graz – one of the five largest cities in Austria, by the way – severely criticised him for his decision to allow the execution of convicted killer, Stanley Tookie Williams, on December 13, 2005, to take place. In what must have been a fit of pique, on learning of his hometown's criticism of him, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger wrote to officials of Graz and demanded that his name be removed from a soccer stadium, forthwith. On Sunday, December 25, and Monday, December 26, 2005, under cover of darkness, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's wishes were carried out and the large metal letters, spelling out the famous movie star's name, were removed. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, also, returned an ornate ring to the Mayor's Office of Graz, one that had been bestowed on the California Governor in 1999 as a token of the city's respect for their native son, transplanted in the United States of America. While I may not endorse Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's decision to allow the execution of Stanley Tookie Williams, at the same time, I understand the reason for the California Governor's determination. Also, being Austrian, one has to take into consideration the history of that little country, which is the birthplace of many illustrious people, such as the following world-famous composers of music: Franz Joseph Haydn, Johann Strauss the Elder, Johann Strauss the Younger, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Anton Bruckner, Franz Schubert, Franz Lehár, and Arnold Schoenberg, just to name some of the most popular, today. And, of course, no short history of Austria would be complete without the mention of the birthplace of Adolf Hitler, the Founder of the German Nazi Party and Chancellor of the Third Reich between 1933 and 1945. Chancellor Adolf Hitler sent in his troops to occupy Austria, his homeland, in 1938. And, who could forget Mr Kurt Waldheim, the esteemed former Secretary General of the United Nations who, in March 1986, became President of Austria. President Kurt Waldheim was a former member of the German Nazi Party and he had participated in some of the atrocities, perpetrated by the ignominious regime of Adolf Hitler, which is known to have exterminated some six million Jews around the world. Mr Kurt Waldheim has never denied that he was a member of Wehrmacht and that he was an intelligence officer in Germany's Army Group E when it committed its atrocities in the Kozara Region of Western Bosnia. After President Kurt Waldheim ascended to the head of the Austrian Government, he was banned from entering the United States under the law which states that entry shall be denied 'to any foreign national who assisted or otherwise participated in activities, amounting to persecution during World War II.' Because of the revelations about this former President of Austria, President Kurt Waldheim did not try to run for a second term of office. Mr Kurt Waldheim was invited to attend the wedding of Mr Arnold Schwarzenegger and the former Miss Maria Shriver, you know. At the wedding reception, after receiving a gift from Mr Kurt Waldheim, Mr Arnold Schwarzenegger remarked: 'My friends don't want me to mention Kurt's name because of all the recent Nazi stuff and the United Nation's controversy. But I love him and Maria does, too. And, so, thank you, Kurt.' What a load of codswallop it is that Austria should, now, determine that California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger should spare the life of a convicted and admitted killer! The country votes in a known World War II criminal to lead the country, a man who was a*

*former avid supporter of Adolf Hitler's evil regime, which was responsible for the deaths of more than fifty million people, worldwide, but, today, it criticises Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his decision to permit the execution of a man who, cold-bloodedly, killed at least four Americans. It makes little sense to me. For what reason did not the Austrian people, on learning that they had elected to the highest office of the country, a former Nazi sympathizer, one who had actively participated in the atrocities of Adolf Hitler and his henchmen, demonstrate in order to kick out President Kurt Waldheim as their leader? But the Austrian people did nothing. To my way of thinking, this is tantamount to an endorsement of the former activities of President Kurt Waldheim when he was a dashing German Army officer in good standing with Der Führer. In conclusion, one may wonder as to the reason that, as soon as the government of his adopted country had banned the entry of President Kurt Waldheim due to confirmation that he was, in fact, a World War II criminal, Mr Arnold Schwarzenegger, at his wedding reception, did not denounce the louse.*

*Talk to you next week.*

*Chief Lady*

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