10 of 17 DOCUMENTS

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HEADLINE: Hunting War Criminals

BODY:

To the Editor:

Re "Simon Wiesenthal Bows Out" (Topics of The Times, April 23):

After recognizing the biological statute of limitations on catching Nazi fugitives still at large, Simon Wiesenthal is retiring.

The Justice Department should consider revising the mandate of the Office of Special Investigation, which also hunts Nazis exclusively, to include investigations of war criminals from other atrocities, like those in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Iraq, who have illegally or fraudulently entered or seek to enter the United States, and then have them prosecuted in the appropriate domestic or international court.

Bringing war criminals beyond Nazis to justice would be a fitting tribute to and natural extension of Mr. Wiesenthal's admirable and courageous legacy.

ZACHARY D. KAUFMAN Oxford, England, April 23, 2003

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