

SECURITY QUIZ ON TWELVE EX-NAZI COLLABORATORS

Startling Allegations

MELBOURNE, Thursday. — Commonwealth Security officers have launched a world-wide probe into allegations that 12 foreigners now living in Australia were Nazi collaborators during the war, and committed atrocities punishable by war crime courts.

The allegations follow "Truth's" publication a fortnight ago of charges by several Polish Jews that Heinrich Bontschek, tailor, Bourke-street, Melbourne, tortured and brutally ill-treated them while prisoners in Auschwitz II. concentration camp, Birkenau, Poland.

CRIMES with which the other men have been accused are alleged to have occurred throughout Europe.

How men said to have such histories to hide sneaked through the security screen which ostensibly debar entry of all types of criminals into Australia is alarming security service officials.

Since "Truth" published the allegations against Bontschek — which Bontschek denies — other migrants have

shed their fear of reprisal here and named 11 other men.

Many of these migrants, cowed by the brutality of years under the Nazi yoke, had been afraid openly to accuse these men. They feared that even in Australia they and their families were not safe.

Whether their allegations are true remains to be proved. But the Commonwealth Immigration Department has a list of the men the migrants have named and the charges levelled against them.

A department spokesman told "Truth" this week: "We will not tolerate people such as these in the country. If they have managed to slip through the official screening and the charges against them are correct, then they will be deported."

"It is then up to the Governments of the countries in which the atrocities are alleged to have occurred whether they will be made to stand trial as war criminals."

Of the eleven men now denounced by their fellow migrants as Nazi collaborators, three are Latvians, three Poles, two Hungarians, one a German, one a Yugoslav, and one a Ukrainian.

Five are alleged to have been members of the special S.S., three members of special punitive detachments, one an informer responsible for the deaths of many partisans, one

former responsible for the deaths of many partisans, one a member of the S.S., and one a member of the Volkabund, who is allegedly named as a Yugoslav war criminal.

In the Bontschek case "Truth" declared that if the charges against him were true he should not be allowed to stay in this country, but should be brought to justice. The same applies to all other people now named.

If the charges against them are unfounded and the accusers are doing it out of personal malice or for other reasons, then the characters of the accused should be cleared and those responsible for the statements should be dealt with.

"Truth" reaffirms its statement that one of the first jobs of the new Minister for Immigration (Mr. H. E. Holt), should be to hold a thorough investigation into these amazing charges and all connected with them.

So that matters such as these, which must arise out of the vast migration scheme Australia has undertaken, can be settled before they lead to violence, "Truth" believes that an impartial tribunal with full authority, but free of red tape, should be established by the Government.

If this is not done then people who claim to have suffered at the hands of such men, may side-step the law and disseminate their own brand of justice.

Other countries overseas have found themselves the hotbed of shocking terrorist acts which endanger whole communities. This must not happen in Australia.