



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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DBB/1082

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New York, New York
March 12, 1965

① Richard Z. Chesnoff *m 201*

On March 10, 1965, New York T-1, who is in a position to furnish reliable information, made available a copy of an article written by Richard Z. Chesnoff, datelined Jerusalem, which article appeared in the New York edition of the New York Herald Tribune on February 8, 1965. New York T-1 advised that he believes that this article is the most comprehensive article available at the New York Herald Tribune. He could furnish no additional details concerning this matter.

Set out below is a verbatim transcript of the article furnished by New York T-1:

"The Spider' Smuggles
Out War Criminals

"By Richard Z. Chesnoff
A Special Correspondent

"Jerusalem

"An exclusive travel agency, with a very special clientele, is operating out of a small Spanish fishing village. It's called 'Die Spinne' (The Spider).

"While it doesn't have a very attractive name for a travel agency, it carries on a booming business smuggling Nazi war criminals into hiding.

"Denia, on the southeastern coast of Spain, is what reliable sources here describe as but one of many stations in a vast, four-continent underground railroad enabling ex-Nazi officers to 'disappear.'

"The sources say the international operation is backed by clandestine Nazi organizations with cells throughout Germany and in several European, South American, African and Arab countries.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency

Date: *2001, 2005*

Richard Z. Chesnoff

"'Die Spinne' is one of them.

"Sources here say the operation is heavily financed by Nazi sympathizers, including 'some of West Germany's biggest industrialists.' Nazi loot, stashed away since World War II, is reportedly another major source of working cash.

"The network has been busy since the last days of the Third Reich. But now it is fully professional, and with the possibility that Bonn might extend the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes it has recently stepped up its secret activities.

"The man who first began to spin the Spider's web, is former SS Col. Otto Skorzeny. A one-time Brownshirt bully boy, Col. Skorzeny opened Spanish headquarters for his escape group in 1949. Euphemistically enough, he fronted it with an import-export business.

"The Spider's web, the sources say, now includes carefully organized escape routes to Nazi havens in South America, Kuwait, Syria and Egypt. Clients are armed with false papers and new names. Jobs and homes await them. Many have their families join them.

"Some top Nazi war criminals still at large, particularly those who think they are being tracked, have just kept riding on the underground railroad, moving from one hiding place to another. Egypt, the sources claim, has become No. 1 haven for Nazis on the run. They charge that President Nasser's government is giving full assistance to the network, including visas and 'good employment opportunities for the escapees.

Richard Z. Chesnoff

"Zech-Neentwich Case

"Evidence backing up at least one such case was given in Brunswick, West Germany, where a court last month sentenced convicted Nazi war criminal Hans Walter Zech-Neentwich to 10 additional months' imprisonment for his 1963 jail break. The former SS lieutenant colonel testified that he had escaped to Cairo with the aid of Egyptian embassy officials in Bonn. He later returned to Germany and turned himself in.

"Denia, Spain, ends one of the Spider's prime European escape tunnels.

"According to the sources, Nazi fugitives who have made contact with the outfit are spirited to the quiet coastal town. Once there, they check into a small, inconspicuous hotel run by former SS Col. Otto Bremer (Nazi party card No. 462775, SS No. 166881).

"Host Bremer hides his 'guests' until arrangements can be made to get them aboard smugglers' boats plying the Spain-North Africa line, safely out of Europe.

"At obscure landing points on the Moroccan coast other Spider agents meet the contraband passengers. Transported to Casablanca, they are passed into the hands of local Nazi circles.

"From Casablanca to Cairo, the sources say, is no problem at all.

"They estimate that over 500 former Nazi and war criminals have successfully fled to Egypt via this and other routes.

Richard Z. Chesnoff

"The reception in Cairo is both warm and well-organized. Heading the welcome wagon for Egypt's thriving Nazi colony is 63-year-old Prof. Omar Amin, alias Johannes Van Leers, formerly an expert on Jewish questions for the Goebbels propaganda ministry and today reportedly head of the 'Jewish Department' of Egypt's Ministry for National Guidance.

"It is Van Leers' job, the sources say, to process the new arrivals, check on their 'war-time talents' and then recommend them for jobs.

"A Growing List

"At least 40 such Nazis, they claim, have thus been recruited for top posts in Egypt's intelligence setup, Mukhabaret el Am. A number are serving as special advisers to Egypt's army. Others have become business men.

"One is notorious Dr. Hans Kisele, a doyen of the Cairo community, former SS 'physician' and associate of Dr. Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz death doctor. German scientists who worked in Egypt and then returned to Europe allegedly report Kisele is a physician for the German crews working on President Nasser's rocket program.

"Among other top Nazis whom the sources say were smuggled to Egypt by Spider are: Bernard Bender, alias Lt. Col. Ben Salsam, war-time chief of the Gestapo's Warsaw 'Jewish department,' wanted for war crimes by the Polish government and now reportedly Egyptian intelligence overseer for what's left of Egypt's Jews.

"Dr. Heinrich Willerman, alias Col. Naim Hakim, SS specialist in sterilization and now reportedly head of the Samreh political prison near Alexandria.

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"Wilhelm Buechler, alias Abdul Makrim, one of the Gestapo commanders of the Warsaw ghetto liquidation and now believed working in the 'Israeli department' of Egyptian intelligence.

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"Leopold Gleim, alias Naem el Nasar, former SS chief in Poland, sentenced to death in absentia by a Polish war crimes court and now reportedly adviser on political prisons to Egyptian intelligence.

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"Joachim Doemling, alias Ibrahim Mustapha, former Gestapo chief in Dusseldorf and now reportedly officer in Egypt's security police.

"The full list, the sources say, is very long. It is growing steadily, they add."

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On March 10, 1965, New York T-2, who is in a position to furnish reliable information, advised that Richard Z. Chesnoff is a Special Correspondent who furnishes articles to the New York Herald Tribune on a fee basis. He is not considered to be a regular staff member of the New York Herald Tribune.

New York T-2 stated that Chesnoff is a replacement for Mr. Al Rosenfeld, a National Broadcasting Company (NBC) foreign correspondent who was recently injured in Cyprus and who is presently hospitalized as a result of the injuries which he received.

New York T-2 believed Chesnoff was a native American, possibly from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, however, he had no specific basis upon which he could base Chesnoff's home town.

New York T-2 stated that Chesnoff has resided in Jerusalem for a number of years and that he would presently be reached at number 64 Prophet Street, Jerusalem, Israel. New York T-2 stated that he has received no information which would indicate that Chesnoff plans to return to the United States in the foreseeable future.

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New York T-2 stated that to his knowledge the New York Herald Tribune does not maintain any original manuscripts but rather prints these articles which it receives from its Special Correspondents based upon their past performance in the journalistic field and the veracity of the articles which they submit.

New York T-2 was unable to furnish any additional details concerning this matter.

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