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12 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Certain Allegations Concerning Heinz FELFE

1. On 30 May 1972 I spoke with Hans Wilhelm EGEN, former SS Major and personal friend of Walter SCHELLENBERG. During World War II EGEN was assigned to SCHELLENBERG's office and served as his outside trouble shooter, primarily in Switzerland. Since World War II, he has been in private business and at the present time owns an import-export firm in Hannover. He boasts that the business is doing very well and that he is quite wealthy. He lives in an upper middle class apartment building in Hannover, Germany and claims to own a hunting lodge and a very fine yacht.

2. My discussion with him was at his home and concerned a topic other than the subject of this memorandum. I asked him about FELFE as an incidental question, when we generally touched on the work of the Swiss desk of the RSHA. In the course of this discussion, as well as during a subsequent talk at his business office on 22 June 1972, I gained the impression that he likes to brag and exaggerate. I am convinced that he will lie without hesitation, if telling a falsehood will serve to enhance his prestige with the listener(s). I doubt, however, that he will resort to lying for treacherous or sinister purposes.

3. In the course of our conversation, EGEN stated that he had known FELFE casually during the war years. He also said that he

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had heard about him in the following context:

a. It was common knowledge among certain members of the RSHA that FELFE was a heavy gambler. He liked to play cards and was in constant debt because of this weakness. EGGEN believes that it is not at all unlikely that FELFE could have been recruited on this basis. Although EGGEN did not set a specific time frame, the general time period under discussion was ca 1942-1943.

b. EGGEN recalled that SCHELLENBERG had mentioned FELFE to him during a conversation following the 20 July 1944 attempt to overthrow Hitler. EGGEN said that he and his wife were very friendly with the SCHELLENBERGs, that he had known SCHELLENBERG before the war, that SCHELLENBERG as well as other high RSHA officials had frequently been guests at his hunting lodge, and that during such visits SCHELLENBERG had often told him various things in great confidence. During one such visit, EGGEN claims, SCHELLENBERG mentioned to him that FELFE had been involved on the very fringes of the 20th of July plot. In this connection SCHELLENBERG supposedly stated that FELFE had come to him one day and had asked for advice and assistance because he feared that he might be in trouble, even though his involvement in the plot had been very, very minimal. SCHELLENBERG, however, told FELFE that he cannot help him in this matter, because the Gestapo had exclusive investigational jurisdiction in the entire case and there was nothing that anybody short of Hitler and Himmler could do about it.

4. EGGEN's knowledge about these two points is quite general. Although I tried to stimulate his memory in various ways, he seemed to be unable to recall anything else in this respect. I asked him whether he had mentioned this matter to the German services or whether he had ever been asked about it by them or by anyone else.

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He replied in the negative. Moreover, he made it quite clear that he was not very impressed by the present-day German services and implied that he would not go out of his way to volunteer information or services to them. He did not seem to be bitter and did not speak about them with acrimony. He simply did not hold much of their capabilities and professionalism. As an example, he mentioned that the BND man who had been sent to him to accredit me was a very inept person. He did not go into detail and explained that he did not want to be instrumental in denying the man his bread and butter.

5. EGGEN also expressed the opinion that Marliese SCHIENKE, who had been SCHELLENBERG's head secretary and is now retired and lives in the Frankfurt area, would probably know more details concerning FELFE. She is, however, extremely reluctant to talk to anyone about the past, as we have found in another case in which we had sought information from her and had contacted her directly. It was in this manner that we were led by her to EGGEN, because she said that she would talk only with his approval or through him. He promised to invite her to his hunting lodge for several days, as he had done on a number of occasions in the past. He claimed that the restful atmosphere there had helped them to relax and had stimulated melancholy discussions about the past. He was confident that in this manner he could induce her to talk about the old days and obtain whatever information she might have about FELFE. He also promised to forward to me any information which she might disclose to him.

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