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MEMORANDUM

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

American Legation
Bern, Switzerland
29 August 1947

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TO: []
FROM: []

1. The attached memoranda, which were turned over to me by the Office of the Military Attaché, are for the most part self-explanatory. After you have read them I would appreciate your giving me a call as I would like to discuss this matter with you.

2. I saw Dr. BALSIGER the other day on this subject. He informed me that a case against a group of Swiss and Germans including RIEDWEG, who will be tried in absentia, is coming up for trial late in September, probably at Zürich. Any available evidence is in the hands of the Federal prosecutors who are preparing the case, and Dr. BALSIGER says that he would not be able to obtain it at this time. He suggested that the War Crimes Commission send an observer to Switzerland to attend the forthcoming trial. He is endeavoring, however, to obtain a transcript of the testimony of Freiherr von KLIMBURG at Zug, as requested in Mr. PETERSEN's memorandum of 14 August.

3. It occurs to me that this matter might be handled through other channels, possibly the Department of Justice, which is the reason I would like to discuss the subject with you. It is also interesting to note that shortly before receiving Mr. PETERSEN's memorandum, the Bundespolizei asked whether we could obtain from the International Tribunal in Nurnberg photostats on the documentation of the "Germanische Leitstelle" and Dr. RIEDWEG. We forwarded this request

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through our offices in Germany, but have not yet had a reply. I can well understand that the War Crimes Commission might not wish to turn over their documentation to the Swiss unless the Swiss come forth with the evidence available to them.

J.S.K.

Attachments (3)

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OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

FIELD NO.: MSB-1107

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| REPORT MADE AT: SC. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | DATE: 2.9.47 | PERIOD COVERED: Current | MADE BY: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SUBJECT: Further on Martin BORMANN | | | STATUS: Pending |

REFERENCE:

SOURCE:

SYNOPSIS OR BRIEF REPORT:

Switz
German

1. Kurt CERF, stateless German, manager of the Hotel Atlantic, 5 rue du Vieux College, Geneva, called at the Geneva Consulate in late July 1947, stating that he had information to give which would lead to the arrest of Martin BORMANN. CERF claimed to have done secret reporting, under the code name "Adolf", for Mr. SQUIRES of the Consulate during the war.
2. Two weeks later CERF returned to the Consulate. He said that the man in possession of the information about BORMANN was Ernst August MESSERSCHMIDT, an old friend of CERF's. MESSERSCHMIDT, a stateless German with an International Red Cross passport, had gone about August 1st to Germany, where he had been arrested and placed in the Singen detention camp. CERF, through German "friends" and through "Commandant ANGEL" of the French Military Police in Baden, was arranging to have him released and sent to Geneva.
3. August 13, 1947, CERF introduced MESSERSCHMIDT to Sydney P. RAYMOND in Geneva. MESSERSCHMIDT, a tall, thin, dark man of about 30, who lives on Lake Garda in Italy, stated that he knows a priest who is Martin BORMANN's confessor and who knows where BORMANN is hiding. MESSERSCHMIDT refused to give the priest's name but identified him as a stateless German, former professor of history at Breslau, now holding an important post in the Vatican.
4. The priest is willing to give BORMANN away on two conditions: (a) that the priest's identity not be revealed and (b) that the family sheltering BORMANN not be persecuted.
5. It was suggested to MESSERSCHMIDT that he take the matter to the American military authorities in Italy. He said that he pre-

Italy

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ferred to deal with a civilian authority because of the priest and the family sheltering BORMANN. He was then told that if he returned to Geneva in full possession of all the facts necessary to arrest BORMANN, his expenses to Geneva would be refunded.

6. No further action has been taken in the matter.

7. There is no trace of CERF's activity on behalf of Mr. SQUIRES.

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