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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

ACC
Riedweg, Franz

American Legation
Bern, Switzerland
17 September 1947

Arthur L. Petersen, War Crimes Attorney
Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes
APO 696 A

SUBJECT: Anti-Swiss Activities of the SS

1. Reference is made to your memorandum on the above subject addressed to the Office of the Military Attaché and dated 14 August 1947, and to our subsequent telephone conversation.

2. When we first approached the Swiss in an effort to obtain the information you requested, we were informed that the Swiss themselves were preparing a case against a group of Swiss and Germans, including RIEDWEG who will be tried in absentia. This case is coming up for trial before the end of the year, probably in Zürich. We were told that all evidence was in the hands of the Federal Prosecutor and could not be made available. The Swiss suggested that your office send an observer to attend the trial.

3. About the same time we received a request from the Swiss Federal Police asking us to assist them in obtaining documentation on the "Germanische Leitstelle" and RIEDWEG, which they understood was in the possession of Mr. DOBBS of your office. This material was needed for the preparation of the above-mentioned case. Following this request from the Swiss, we again asked if the material originally requested for you could not be made available. We have now been informed as follows:

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COORDINATED WITH State

A. Concerning the evidence given by Freiherr von KLIMBURG at the Zug trial in May 1947, the prosecuting attorney, Dr. LUETHI, has stenographic notes of the evidence given. This has not been "protocolized" but, if it is of use to your office in Nurnberg, it is available. In the meantime, the Swiss referred us to an article on this trial which appeared in the Basel "National Zeitung" of 27 May 1947 (copy enclosed).

B. The judgment passed by the Swiss Bundesanwaltschaft against the Bund der Schweizer in Grossdeutschland is available, if this would be of use to your office.

C. Concerning the Motion Boerlin (pages 54-103), some of the documentation on which the report was based could be made available to your office but would have to be screened first.

D. The evidence against Franz RIEDWEG is still in use in the preparation of the forthcoming case and can not be available until the trial is over.

4. It is my suggestion that someone from your office be sent to Switzerland to screen the above material and also to attend the forthcoming trial. We here have neither the personnel nor the knowledge to undertake such a task. As far as concerns the Swiss request for the documentation which you have on the "Germanische Leitstelle" and Dr. RIEDWEG, it would be my suggestion that the Swiss Federal Police be asked to send a representative to Nurnberg to screen your material, which I imagine is quite voluminous.

5. Will you kindly let me know as soon as possible your views on this matter. The Swiss are as anxious as you are to obtain any available documentation in the shortest possible time.

James S. Kronthal
Attaché, American Legation

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