

Office of the Air Attache
American Embassy
Madrid, Spain

29

26 September 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT: Further Activities of Colonel Otto SKORZENY

1. I passed several hours last night, 25 September, with Colonel Otto SKORZENY at his home. Unfortunately, I learned nothing more regarding further details of any meeting to be held in Toledo on 27 September, however, I did learn the following: SKORZENY and his wife will have lunch today with the CONDE DE MAYALDE at his Finca in Toledo this noon. You will recall the Conde de Mayalde was the last Spanish Ambassador to Germany in the Third Reich. He is also a onetime Spanish Chief of Police. I have been with Skorzeny and Mayalde on another occasion and they appear to be exceptionally good friends.

2. I do know that prior to my arrival at Skorzeny's house, he was visited by several other people. Their names I am not aware of other than a man named YELISS. Tomorrow evening he will have dinner with Ed KNOBLAUGH at Korchers restaurant in company with a representative of Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. Said representative he thought to be John Ringling-North. (Note: Your guess is as good as mine if Ringling plans to use Skorzeny in a side show.)

3. As per instructions, I queried Skorzeny on the subject matter contained in paragraph 4, my memo to you, 24 September. I told him that his helping us would mean a great feather in his cap and he could no doubt be helped in some manner by my Government. He appeared to be most appreciative, however, he stated he was extremely concerned with the safety and well-being of all members involved in this particular espionage ring. Therefore, he reiterated once again that he must wait a little while longer until he has positive proof. Feeling like ourselves, he does not want to make a costly blunder and therefore he is moving slowly.

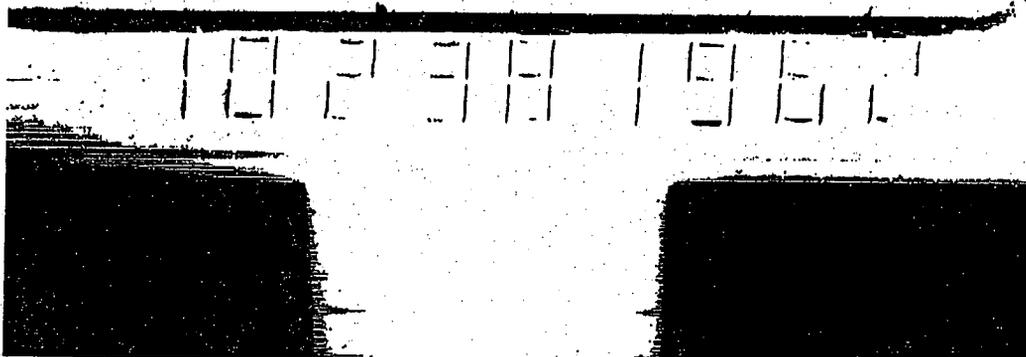
4. I then informed him that once he had the information, would that he advise me, I can have an area expert here in Madrid within 24 hours. (Note: I must say this rather pleased the old boy.) I have mentioned on several occasions Skorzeny's plan which changes in method from time to time yet remains ideologically the same regarding the possibility and feasibility

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of establishing some form of a German training cadre here in Spain, composed of, no doubt, his ex-cohorts, Rumania, Italy, Germany, etc. He explained he had prepared a similar plan some time ago, however, he never knew just who had received his plan and what happened to it in the end. Apparently, this plan was placed in the hands of one Edgar SMITH, American engineer, who was here in Spain for a brief period as an advisor to the Spanish Air Force installing electric equipment at Spanish bases. I informed Skorzeny if he was genuinely sincere about helping us, and I cited the "spy ring" nature of our earlier talks, I would help him resubmit his plan directly to Washington and see to it that it gets in the right hands but I could not vouch for its acceptance. (Note: You may have to give me some help in this matter.)

5. Personally, I am convinced Skorzeny means well and will help us if it is within his power, and I frankly feel his price in one form or another for doing so will not be too high.

ROBERT D. BIECK
Major, USAF
Asst Air Attache

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