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Secret-Security Information

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

12 March 1953

Chief of Base, Bonn

Attn: []

Operational/CALL

o Otto SKORZENY

Ref: OSMA-161

1. Attached is a copy of Dispatch #104 of 2 March 1953, from the American Consulate General at Marseille.

2. It will be noted that fm KLUF is identical with Ouenthar BURN of Reference. It is therefore clear that BURN is likewise an alias, which explains the absence of all traces. It is further noteworthy that information on his own background is greatly at variance with his statements in Madrid.

3. It seems fairly obvious that BURN's alias KLUF's purpose is to spread confusion, and it does not seem impossible that he will turn up at yet another U.S. installation.

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Disp 104 of 2 Mar 53 fr AmConGen, Marseille

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- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
 - (2)(B) Methods/Sources
 - (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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Consulate General, Marseille

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March 2, 1953

alleged clandestine group engaged in returning former Waffen SS officers to Germany, and planning an anti-American riot in Tehran.

A young man claiming to be a German former Waffen SS officer who has been living in Argentina since the war visited this Consulate General on February 27 and recited a tale which, if true, revealed the existence of a secret international organization, composed of former Waffen SS officers and partially financed by the Soviets, which is presently engaged in returning former Waffen SS officers to Germany. There they are supposed to work with the Russians against the western orbit. He said in addition, that the organization which goes by the initials H.I.A.S.S., is presently planning an armed insurrection against "American oil companies" to begin during the next two or three months in Tehran. He said further that former Waffen SS officers who fled Germany after the war are now organized in many countries, mentioning specifically Argentina, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Egypt and Belgium.

The informant

The informant, who would not reveal his true name, used the pseudonym of KLUF. He said he was 33 years old, born in Poland, formerly married to a Swiss girl who was killed in bombing raids during the war, and after being imprisoned by the Americans following the war, escaped to Argentina where he has been acting as an Armored Vehicle instructor for the Argentine army. He said he had been living in Buenos Aires. About two months ago, along with all other former Waffen SS officers in Argentina, he said he had received orders from the H.I.A.S.S. Organization to return to Germany via Spain. He estimated that 180 persons had left Argentina in response to these orders.

He said he had left Argentina on a Panamanian ship with a German captain. He was not clear on where he left the ship, but mentioned Porte Grad ^{H I A G} /sic/. He said he went to Madrid where he reported to former Waffen SS officer VIY, who lives in Madrid/Aliso, Calle Oria. Viy is reputedly associated in Madrid with SKORZENY (now known as Otto STERNBERGER) who has an office at Jose Antonia Street No. 14, 2nd floor (telephone 225-001).

He said he knows Skorzeny, had served with him during the war, and talked with him about three weeks ago. He said that Skorzeny had recently returned from a trip to Cairo. He mentioned that Skorzeny is married to Baroness FRIEDENSTEIN (private

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Madrid telephone number 337890), who belongs to the Hjalmar SCHACHT Family.

Kluf said he did not like the Russians, and told Skorseny he was not in favor of working with them. Skorseny allegedly promised him he could return to Germany to work independently (not for Russia, nor for America, but for Germany), but that Vly had given him different instructions. These were that he, accompanied by a courier from the Russian zone, should return to Germany, leave his guide in Hanover, and then travel alone to Hamburg where he would report to the Headquarters of H.I.A.S.S.

Kluf said he was not in accordance with this, so he left the courier after crossing the French border, and came to Marseille where there is also a group of former Waffen SS officers and sympathizers, numbering 30 or 40 members. He said they traveled on February 25 via Barcelona (where former Gestapo Chief Herman HAAHFLER has his residence at Calle Mandri 89), and crossed the border at Port-Bou. He said that at Perpignan, he threw away a pistol with which he had been armed. He stated that because he was disgruntled with the way he had been treated and because he wished to spoil the plans of any group working for the Russians, he had decided to come to the American Consulate, tell his story, and then return to Argentina. He made it clear, however, that he was not in sympathy with the Americans either, nor with Adenauer and his government, because they are not "Prussian" in their ideas. He gave the impression of being a proud and nationalistic German. He was obviously well-read, and claimed to speak eight languages, although neither his French nor his English was good. The greater part of the conversation was conducted in German.

Organization of H.I.A.S.S.

Kluf said that he did not know what the letters H.I.A.S.S. signified, but that the motto was Ehre und Freiheit (Honor and Freedom). This motto is represented by the symbol:



He said the organization has its seat in Hamburg/Altona, and that it is headed by former Waffen SS officer GILLK, who is a friend of Sepp DIETRICH, former commander of Hitler's guard. He said that since 1951 the organization has been receiving financial support from Russia, and that it also receives funds from German big industry, including the Princess ISENBERG (in Munich), and the Countess FABER CASTELL of the large German pencil-manufacturing firm.

He said the purpose of H.I.A.S.S., and thus of the Waffen SS officers involved, is to work for a "new Germany" under the protection of Soviet Russia.

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He stated that HIGER, head of the recently banned neo-Nazi SRP party, has also been cooperating with the Russians, and that the man recently arrested by the British also belong to the groups which work with the Soviets.

He said that couriers from the Russian zone, carrying either money or pouches, travel weekly or bi-weekly to Madrid, although he did not know the exact route they took.

Planned revolt in Tehran.

Kluf said that he had learned the previous evening in Marseille that certain Waffen SS officers, specialists in guerilla warfare (Partisankrieg), including those experienced in the Waffen SS Aktionkrieg and the Ardennes offensive, were planning an armed insurrection during the next two or three months against the "American oil companies" in Tehran. He said that during the night of February 26-27, two pleasure yachts left Marseille carrying German personnel and a cargo including weapons (pistols of Belgian manufacture, individually packed in aluminum boxes) bought with Communist funds.

One of the yachts, he said, was the "Jacqueline", of about 100-120 tons, home port Monte Carlo where it had a registry number 218. Its destination was Cairo, although he could not tell how the weapons would be transported from there to Tehran. Among those aboard were allegedly a certain STRINDL, former leader of the Werwolf Verbaende (which was to have been activated in the Black Forest under SS Obergruppenfuhrer KEPLER), and the former stormtrooper leader FRITZ.

Kluf said that his information had come from one of these two men (with whom he had had a drink shortly before their departure) and a certain Mr. VANDENBERG whom he described as a leader of the Marseille group. Vandenberg, he said, is a Belgian who lives in a large house at No. 25 Blvd. Rodocanachi, Marseille. (Note: The Marseille city directory lists no Vandenberg at this address. The only person of this name listed is a Lucien VANDENBERG at 301 Avenue du Prado, which incidently is the building also housing the Consulate of Monaco.)

Other names mentioned

Kluf said that further information on the Tehran revolt could be bought from a certain Mr. WANDEL, an Alsatian living at rue Saint Sebastian Frossard No. 11, 2 nd floor, Paris.

He said that information might also be received from Skorzeny's secretary, a Frau WALTER, whose private address in Madrid is Madrajos 18.

He said that in Lisbon the following persons were active in the Waffen SS work: VOELKERT, HUFFER, and RANNINGER (no addresses given).

Additional information

Kluf mentioned that about one and one-half months ago, he noticed an American Navy officer (commander of a cruiser) having a drink in the Bar Casablanca, Madrid,

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with an Albert BRUKER, who is allegedly a Belgian and a known Communist spy. Bruker is supposed to live at Blvd. Hausmann, Paris.

He said that there are thousands of Waffen SS officers and sympathizers scattered throughout the world, organized in six sub-organizations. He specified that a number of these persons belong to the present Egyptian army.

He said that many Germans are still clandestinely leaving Germany for Argentina, and have been doing so during the past six months. They generally travel via Rome where there are Fascist sympathizers. He said there is no difficulty with papers, travel documents, etc.

Comment

The above information has not been confirmed, but is reported in the event that it may contain some verifiable truth.

Kluf's story did not quite ring true from several standpoints. For example:

1. Why did he come to the American Consulate? When asked, he did not give a direct reply, but explained that, being a German, if he had a certain idea and a friend of his had another which conflicted with his own, he felt obliged to work wholeheartedly against his friend's. He supposed that an American probably would not understand this, as it takes a person born in Germany to appreciate the German mentality in this respect.

2. Why was he so free with his information? Kluf's visit to the Consulate General was entirely voluntary, as was all the information he gave. He asked for no recompense. In fact he seemed to be racking his brains to think of more names and places to tell us, and on many occasions he referred to an address book.

If what he said was true, and if persons he mentioned were apprehended as a result of his statement, he must have known that, except for his anonymity, there was no guarantee that he would be protected. And still, he said he planned to return to Argentina where he could undoubtedly still be reached by H.I.A.S.S. members.

3. If he was so ideologically opposed to the idea of H.I.A.S.S., why did he not return to West Germany where he might work against it? When asked, he said he would have no means of a livelihood there, while his livelihood was assured in Argentina. This attitude was somewhat mundane when compared to the idealistic feelings which allegedly prompted him to come to inform on his fellowmen.

for the Consul General:

CC: Embassy, Paris
Embassy, Madrid
Embassy, Cairo
Embassy, Buenos Aires
Embassy, Tehran
HICOG, Bonn
Anconsulate General, Hamburg

J. Roland Jacobs,
Consul

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