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TO: Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Attention: Mr. Raymond F. Farrell

FROM: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: SKORZENY, Otto
alias Rolf STEINBAUER

1. Reference is made to the telephone request of Mr. Staley of 2 December 1955 for information concerning Otto SKORZENY.

2. The files of this office contain voluminous information concerning the subject of the request. Reports have been received from all over the world concerning Subject's activities and intentions, but in the vast majority of cases these reports consist only of allegations -- many of them, wild and contradictory. In most cases there is no explanation of how the source obtained his information, no substantiation of such statements as "SKORZENY is (or is not) establishing a guerilla warfare or air school for the Egyptians, is (or is not) setting up a 'secret Nazi High Command' throughout Europe, is (or is not) giving effective aid to various Arab countries". Typical examples of this type of information, as well as some substantive reports, concerning Subject are outlined below.

3. A report dated 8 July 1949 from a usually reliable source indicated that Otto SKORZENY, the German SS officer renowned for his rescue of Benito MUSSOLINI during World War II, had been observed in Cordoba, Argentina, and that he had arrived by boat from Italy some three months previously.

4. According to a report dated 5 August 1949 from a usually reliable source, (Colonel) Otto SKORZENY had recently moved from Cordoba, and was presently residing in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Source indicated that SKORZENY was employed by the Argentine Government in an agency (not specified) located on Avenida Presidente Roque Saenz Pena, Buenos Aires. It was further indicated that SKORZENY was expected to attend (but did not), a ceremony which was held in Buenos Aires on 29 July 1949 for constituting the Anti-Communist International League. The League was organized by (Father) Virgilio FILIPPO, a Catholic priest and an Argentine national deputy (Peronista). A majority of the attendants at the ceremony reportedly adhered to the Fascist ideology.

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Date: 2001, 2005

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

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5. In a report dated 24 January 1950 from a usually reliable source, it was indicated that Otto SKORZENY had arrived in Bolivia shortly following Germany's surrender and had obtained employment with the Bolivian Government as an aviation technician. According to Source, sometime before 1 January 1950, SKORZENY accepted a position as an aviation technician with the Argentine Government, and at the time of the report, he was employed at the Palomar Air Field in Buenos Aires. Source declared that SKORZENY was using an assumed name in Argentina; however, the Argentine Government was aware of his true name and background.

6. A report dated 20 November 1951 from a usually reliable source indicated that, according to Otto SKORZENY, his project for the formation of a neo-fascist force in Spain had received the approval of high Spanish officials by the end of September 1951. SKORZENY further claimed to have the full backing of trusted persons from Iron Curtain countries, including Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Latvia, and Rumania. Source stated that SKORZENY's plans called for an officer cadre to be set up in Spain, composed of 300 men from each of ten unidentified countries.

7. The following information concerning Otto SKORZENY's alleged neo-Nazi apparat in Western Germany was received in a report dated 5 November 1952 from a usually reliable Luftwaffe veteran, who had obtained the data from a member of the apparat:

- a. For more than a year from the date of the report, Otto SKORZENY has been building an underground organization of Nazi-minded individuals with the immediate objective of preventing German integration with the Western Powers and with the ultimate objective of re-establishing an authoritarian German state. Dr. Werner MAUNAN, former State Secretary in GOEBBELS' propaganda ministry, directs the group in Germany as the personal representative of SKORZENY. Hans RUDEL, a Luftwaffe ace now in Argentina, also works directly under SKORZENY, organizing support in South America and directing the recruitment of some of his contacts in Germany.
- b. The organization aims at building secret cells within already existing political parties, groups, and associations, rather than the creation of a new overt political party. The SKORZENY apparat allegedly already has men within the Verfassungsschutz (West German Internal Security Service) and even in GIC, who supply advance information regarding moves by those two agencies. To enforce its will, the apparat uses, among other means, a so-called "unbloody Feme technique" -- threats of murder or other physical

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violence -- and may later make good those threats.

It should be noted that this report is suspected of containing a number of inaccuracies and exaggerations.

8. A report dated 28 April 1953 received through a usually reliable source from an informant of unknown reliability, indicated that there were two training centers for the Egyptian commandos who have been recruited for guerrilla warfare against the British in the Suez Canal Zone, if the present evacuation talks break down. According to Source, the commando trainees at each center were being instructed in the techniques of guerrilla warfare by German officers, and Egyptian Army officers at the centers had stated that the over-all direction of any guerrilla attack against the British would be performed by (Colonel) Otto SKORZENY. The same report indicated that an untested source had reported that Egyptian Premier NAJIB had commissioned SKORZENY, who was then in Madrid, to establish a "Military Academy for Air" in Egypt, on which details would be made public after the British evacuate Egypt.

9. Information contained in a report dated 28 May 1953 from a usually reliable source indicated that (Colonel) Otto SKORZENY had taken an Egyptian delegation (composed of officers devoted to General NAJIB), while in Spain on a tour to the National Spanish arms factories at Trubia, Reynosa, and Palencia, where tests of various artillery pieces were carried out in their presence. It was also noted that SKORZENY accompanied the Egyptian officers while in Spain, and that he maintained an office at 1, Avenida Jose Antonio, Madrid, where he dealt with arms affairs, claiming that he was acting for the Egyptian Government.

10. A report dated 16 July 1954 from a usually reliable source indicated that Clifford FOSTER, a New York lawyer and Executive Chairman of Bauerlein International, a subsidiary of Bauerlein, Inc. (a public relations firm with offices in New York, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Washington, D. C.) had been in Germany for several weeks attempting to negotiate a large public relations contract to represent German business firms in America. While in Cologne, Germany, FOSTER was a guest at a private dinner which was attended by some sixteen German industrialists and businessmen. According to Source, the former (Countess) FINGENSTEIN of Madrid, then the wife of Otto SKORZENY, was among those present at the dinner party, and she was toasted by the Germans there as "Mrs. President". This reference was not explained, but it appeared that she was the head of, or the front for, some special group interested in East-West trade.

11. According to a report dated 15 August 1954 from a usually reliable source, Otto SKORZENY has an office at 2527 Montero Street in Madrid, and appeared to deal in any business activities which seemed to offer a profit. Source reported that SKORZENY continued to engage in activities concerning R.E.N.F.E. (not further identified), and from the appearance of his office

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he was doing well financially. Source reported that for some months there has been a rumor in Madrid that SKORZENY had been approached by Moroccan elements seeking his assistance in effecting the liberation of former (Sultan) Mohammed V. Although the rumor was unverified, it had apparently been played up by some French publications.

12. A report dated 23 September 1954 from a usually reliable source indicated that (Colonel) Otto SKORZENY, who was currently living in Madrid, has been employed by the KRUPP firm of Essen, Germany, and that he would leave soon for South America on KRUPP's behalf. Source stated that informants were unaware of the exact nature of SKORZENY's duties; however, they suspected a possible overseas munitions deal, pointing out that SKORZENY was not particularly gifted with administrative or executive talents, but was noted primarily for undercover work. Source further indicated that SKORZENY's wife, (Countess) Ilse FINKENSTEIN, was a very intelligent business operator and might be the brains behind whatever the SKORZENY-KRUPP deal involved. A report dated 5 November 1954 from a source of unknown reliability revealed that SKORZENY had arrived in Buenos Aires as a representative of KRUPP interests. According to the Buenos Aires German language daily, Argentiaisches Tageblatt, an article on a Madrid date-line 18 October 1954 indicated that SKORZENY had left Madrid by air on 16 October 1954 for Buenos Aires. An Associated Press dispatch of 21 November 1954 reported that a KRUPP Industries group, of whom SKORZENY was a member, was negotiating for KRUPP's participation in Sociedad Mixta Siderurgica Argentina (SMSA), an Argentine business firm, which was controlled and partly owned by the Peron Government.

13. According to a report dated 23 April 1955 from a fairly reliable source, Otto SKORZENY had been engaged by the Egyptian Government to re-organize the Egyptian Secret Service (sic).

14. In a report dated 1 August 1955 from a very reliable source, it was indicated by (Dr.) Constantin TSIMBAS, a former Gestapo agent, that he was presently in touch with Otto SKORZENY by regular mail as a result of their war time collaboration. TSIMBAS volunteered to Source the following information concerning SKORZENY:

- a. SKORZENY was currently in Madrid, residing at 2527 Montara Street.
- b. SKORZENY was keeping a file of 4000 former Gestapo agents and contacts. He was making a living by running a company of engineering consultants.
- c. SKORZENY had been living in Spain since 1946 and had been enjoying many very high-level contacts in the Spanish Government. Allegedly he is a personal friend of Generalissimo FRANCO.

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- d. For a period of time, SKORZENY had acted as an advisor to the present Egyptian Government on military matters, and had personally selected and recommended many of the 380 former German officers who were currently working for the Egyptian Ministry of National Defense.

It should be noted that Source described TSIDRAS as appearing to have had substantial experience in intelligence, but as trying to sell himself, and as probably making exaggerated statements.

15. Additional information concerning Otto SKORZENY is contained in a memorandum dated 8 February 1951 sent to the Department of State, a copy of which is attached herewith. It is suggested that a check be made with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and with the Department of State [References (1) Department of State cable No. 6207, dated 26 January 1951, from Frankfurt, Germany; (2) Department of State cable No. 4252, dated 22 January 1951, from Paris, France] for further information concerning Subject.

16. There is no information in the files of this office to indicate that Otto SKORZENY has ever been connected with Nicolai MALAXA. It has been noted in the above information that SKORZENY has been in Argentina; however, we have no reports of his participation in the recent PERON ouster.

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1 Enclosure (SOB-34214)

RI/CS: AMJ/RAC/cs
Based on: OSMW-659
TAB-1718
TAB-1789
TOP-1351
65-120-4 (20 Nov 51)
NEA-82
EGF-75
EGQA-17493
EGFA-3051
OSMA-2183
EGF-578
HAB-948
EGAA-16955
[] (SO DB-34214)
OIM-538
HAB-948

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