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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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FOR COORDINATION WITH ed State

1. MR. ROEPKE'S RE-INTERVIEW HAS OPENED NEW LINES OF RESEARCH WHICH HAVE CONVINCED DEPTOFF THAT HE IS TELLING HALF-TRUTHS AND CONCEALING INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR. AT THIS POINT, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT MR. ROEPKE IS WILLING TO FURNISH THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE ADJUDICATION OF HIS CASE. DEPTOFF RECOMMENDS THAT CONSOFF REFUSE HIM UNDER 221(G). PLEASE MAKE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT HE CANNOT BE ISSUED A VISA UNLESS HE COMES CLEAN. THE FOLLOWING ANALYSIS OF HIS CASE IS FOR POST'S BENEFIT, AS THERE ARE INTERSTING HISTORICAL ASPECTS WHICH COULD APPLY TO FUTURE CASES. POST MAY CONVEY THESE CONCLUSIONS TO MR. ROEPKE. IT IS APPARENT THAT HE UNDERESTIMATES THE EXTENT TO WHICH HIS STORY CAN BE CHECKED BY REFERRAL TO CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, AND THAT HE HAS ALREADY CRAFTED PART OF HIS TESTIMONY TO FIT THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM.

2. ROEPKE'S INSISTENCE THAT HE WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE

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SD IS FLATLY UNTRUE. BDC RECORDS SHOW THAT HE JOINED THE SD IN 1937, AND WAS ASSIGNED TO SD-UNTERABSCHNITT GROSS BERLIN. THIS INFORMATION IS ABSTRACTED FROM HIS OWN PERSONNEL FILE. THIS MAKES PERFECTLY LOGICAL HIS ASSIGNMENTS IN ROMANIA. ACCORDING TO HIS TESTIMONY, HE REPORTED TO A MAN NAMED VON BODERSCHWING. AN OTTO-ALBRECHT VON BOLSCHWING IS LISTED AS ATTACHE TO THE LEGATION IN BUCHAREST IN THE ALMANACH DE GOTHA FOR 1941. WILLIAM HOETTEL, CHIEF OF BALKAN AFFAIRS IN AMT 6 (FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE) OF THE SD, IDENTIFIES VON BOLSCHWING AS THE SD CHIEF OF STATION FOR ROMANIA IN HIS BOOK "DIE GEHEIME FRONT". THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIRMED BY THE SS OFFICER'S LIST OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH LISTS VON BOLSCHWING AS AN SD OFFICER. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ROEPKE WAS AN AGENT ON ASSIGNMENT IN ROMANIA AND THAT HE REPORTED TO THE SD STATION CHIEF IN THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST.

3. THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT INVOLVED IS QUITE INTERESTING. HITLER HAD, IN SEPTEMBER 1940, ENGINEERED THE ABDICATION OF KING CAROL AND HIS REPLACEMENT AS HEAD OF STATE BY A STRONG-MAN, ION ANTONESCU, A PRO-GERMAN FASCIST. THE SD HOWEVER, FAVORED THE OPPOSITION TO ANTONESCU, CALLED THE LEGIONARIES. IN OCTOBER 1940, HIMMLER SENT AN SD MAN TO ROMANIA TO FORM A LEGION LIASON GROUP, TO REMOLD THE LEGIONARIES ON THE PATTERN OF THE GERMAN SS. THIS MAN SUCCEEDED IN THE ATTEMPT, AND ON 21 JANUARY 1941, THE LEGIONARIES ROSE AGAINST ANTONESCU. WITH THE AID OF THE GERMAN MILITARY MISSION, WHICH NUMBERED TWO DIVISIONS, ANTONESCU PUT DOWN THE REVOLT. HITLER WAS FURIOUS, THREATENING TO STAMP OUT THE SD FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION. A NEW AMBASSADOR, MANFRED VON KILLINGER, ASSURED ANTONESCU OF GERMAN SUPPORT, AND VON BOLSCHWING, THE SD CHIEF, WAS ARRESTED BY THE GESTAPO.

3. MR. ROEPKE'S ASSIGNMENT TO THE SONDERKOMMANDO DES REICHSFUHRER-SS LASTED FROM FEBRUARY 15, 1940 UNTIL MARCH 1, 1941, A TIME PERIOD WHICH COVERS ALL THE IMPORTANT EVENTS COMPRISING THE OVERTHROW OF THE MONARCHY AND THE RISE OF ANTONESCU. HE CONSISTENTLY REFUSES TO EXPLAIN THIS PERIOD OF HIS CAREER. DEPTOFF HAS DISCOVERED SEVERAL POSSIBLE TASKS MR. ROEPKE COULD HAVE BEEN PERFORMING, ONE OF WHICH, AT LEAST, COULD LEAD TO ROEPKE BEING DECLARED INELIGIBLE UNDER 212(A)(33):

A. HE COULD HAVE BEEN THE SD MAN DESCRIBED ABOVE, WHO ORGANIZED THE TRAINING OF THE LEGIONARIES ALONG SS LINES.

B. HE COULD HAVE BEEN RECRUITING FOR THE SS AMONG ETHNIC GERMANS IN ROMANIA. HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE ON THE STAFF OF THE SS-MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER WAS PROBABLY A RECRUITING POSITION, WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA. THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST WAS, AT THE TIME, TRYING TO RELOCATE THE THOUSANDS OF ETHNIC GERMANS LIVING IN THE PROVINCE OF BESSARABIA. THIS PROVINCE, SUBJECT TO A SECRET

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN STALIN AND HITLER IN 1939, WAS OCCUPIED IN 1941 BY THE SOVIET UNION. HE COULD HAVE BEEN REPORTING TO GENERAL WALTER LORENZ, WHO WAS HEAD OF THE VOLKSDEUTSCHE MITTELSTELLE (ETHNIC GERMAN ASSISTANCE OFFICE) IN ROMANIA.

C. HE COULD HAVE BEEN AGITATING ON BEHALF OF GERMANY AMONG THE ETHNIC GERMANS IN ROMANIA. THIS WAS ALREADY BEING DONE BY A.A. KONRADI, WHO WAS THE LANDSGRUPPENLEITER FOR THE AUSLANDS-ORGANIZATION, UNDER COVER IN THE BUCHAREST EMBASSY AS THE COMMERCIAL ATTACHE. THE AUSLANDS-ORGANIZATION WAS A WELFARE AND PROPAGANDA ORGANIZATION OF THE NAZI PARTY THE AIM OF WHICH WAS TO RECRUIT GERMANS LIVING OUTSIDE THE REICH INTO THE PARTY, AND TO USE THEM FOR ESPIONAGE PURPOSES. KONRADI HAD BEEN PROPAGANDIZING THE ROMANIAN GERMANS TO SUPPORT GERMAN CONTROL OF THE ROMANIAN OIL INDUSTRY AT PLOESTI.

D. HE COULD HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING THE DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM ROMANIA. THE JUDENREFERENT (JEWISH EXPERT) IN THE BUCHAREST EMBASSY, GUSTAV RICHTER, WAS A PROLIFIC OBSERVER AND REPORTER OF THE SITUATION OF JEWS IN ROMANIA. HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITIES OF EXPROPRIATING JEWISH-OWNED INDUSTRY, AND REPORTED THE EFFECTS OF ANTONESCU'S POLICY OF REQUIRING JEWS TO DO FORCED LABOR ON THE RUMANIAN ECONOMY. ROEPKE COULD VERY WELL HAVE BEEN ASSISTING HIM IN HIS ENDEAVORS.

E. A MOST INTRUIGING SCENARIO, HOWEVER, IS THAT MR. ROEPKE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FOILING THE EFFORTS OF THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICE TO DESTROY THE PLOESTI OIL FIELDS, OR ALTERNATIVELY, BLOCKING THE NAVIGATION OF THE DANUBE RIVER, WHICH TRANSPORTED THE OIL. ACCORDING TO DECLASSIFIED ARCHIVES OF THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICE, THERE WERE TWO MAJOR SABATOGE EFFORTS UNDER WAY AT THE SAME TIME MR. ROEPKE WAS SENT TO ROMANIA. THE FIRST WAS

SPONSORED BY SECTION D OF THE SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. THE SIS STATION CHIEF IN BUCHAREST WAS EDWARD BOXHALL, AN EXECUTIVE FOR THE VICKERS CORPORATION. HE HAD THREE ASSISTANTS UNDER COVER IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY AS VICE CONSULS, STANLEY GREEN, TIM WATTS, AND GEOFFREY HOUSEHOLD. THIS PLAN WAS ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED WHEN THE GERMANS GOT WORD OF THE PLOT AND POSTED GUARDS AT ALL THE SRATEGIC POINTS SLATED FOR DEMOLITION. DESPERATE, THE BRITISH TURNED TO AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN, STOPPING THE FLOW OF OIL BARGES DOWN THE DANUBE RIVER BY CLOSING THE NARROW STRAITS CALLED THE IRON GATES ON THE ROMANIAN-YUGOSLAV BORDER. ANOTHER SIS MAN, MERVIN MINSHALL, WAS SUPPLIED WITH DIPLOMATIC COVER AND PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES THROUGH THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH. THIS AND SEVERAL OTHER OF HIS PLANS WERE FOILED, AND ON APRIL 8, 1940, THE GERMANS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THE DETAILS OF HIS PLAN AND REVEALED HIS POSITION IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LENGTHY PRESENTATION IS TO

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DEMONSTRATE THAT BUCHAREST WAS NOT THE BACKWATER THAT MR. ROEPKE IS TRYING TO PORTRAY, BUT A CRITICAL AREA LITERALLY SWARMING WITH INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL TRYING EITHER TO CUT OFF GERMANY'S ONLY SUPPLIES OF OIL, OR TRYING TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING DESTROYED. IN THIS LIGHT, ROEPKE'S CONSISTENT ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE HIS PARTICIPATION IN THESE EVENTS BECOMES LESS AND LESS BELIEVABLE.

4. HIS EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE SS-MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER LEFT DEPTOFF BREATHLESS WITH ADMIRATION FOR HIS CHUTZPAH. MR. ROEPKE PORTRAYS THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER AS A GROUP OF CIVIL LIBERTARIANS SOMEHOW RESISTING THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE NAZIS. IN FACT, THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER WAS AN SS STUDENT FRATERNITY, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO TRAIN AN IDEOLOGICAL ELITE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL FIELDS OUTSIDE THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. THESE STUDENTS WERE ALREADY MEMBERS OF THE SS, LIVED TOGETHER ON OR NEAR CAMPUS, AND WERE SUBJECT TO PARTY WORK, IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING, AND MILITARY EXERCISES DURING THEIR VACATIONS. IN DECEMBER OF 1937, THE REICH STUDENT LEADER ISSUED A PROCLAMATION STATING THAT THE SS-MANNSCHAFTER WERE "POLITICALLY AWARE PICKED TROOPS SELECTED ACCORDING TO SS PRINCIPLES AND ACTIVITIES, WITHIN THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN STUDENT UNION." AN ALLIED G-2 DOCUMENT DATING FROM 1944 CHARACTERIZES THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER AS A METHOD EMPLOYED BY THE SS TO

INCREASINGLY CONTROL ALL ASPECTS OF GERMAN LIFE. IT DIFFERED FROM THE SPECIALIST SCHOOLS, SUCH AS THE NAPOLAS AND ORDENSBERGEN IN THAT THE MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER INTENDED TO CREATE AN SS AND NAZI CONSTITUENCY IN TECHNICAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONS, AND TO EVOLVE THE CORE OF AN SS RULING CLASS WHICH WOULD HAVE THE MANAGERIAL SKILLS WHICH BOTH PARTY AND SS FOUND IN SUCH SHORT SUPPLY WITHIN THEIR RANKS.

5. MR. ROEPKE'S ACCOUNT OF HOW HE GOT ONTO THE BOOKS OF THE SD IS ALSO INTERESTING. HE STATES THAT IN ORDER TO GET INTO THE TRIAL OF SOMEONE NAMED NIEMULLER, HE GOT A FRIEND, VALENTINE PATZAK, TO GET HIM AN SD CARD "SOMETIME AROUND 1935". PASTOR NIEMOLLER, A FORMER U-BOAT COMMANDER AND AUTHOR OF A VERY POPULAR BOOK, "FROM U-BOAT TO PULPIT" WAS TRIED ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1938, ON CHARGES RELATING TO HIS RESISTANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NAZI STATE CHURCH. THIS WAS LONG AFTER THE TIME STATED BY ROEPKE, WHO HAD JOINED THE SD IN 1937, AND WOULD NOT HAVE NEEDED THE INTERVENTION OF MR. PATZAK TO ATTEND. THE ONLY THING THAT RINGS TRUE IN THIS ACCOUNT IS THE FACT THAT VALENTINE PATZAK DID INDEED EXIST, AND WORKED FOR THE SD.

6. MR. ROEPKE HAS ALSO DONE A GOOD JOB OF MINIMIZING HIS ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF THE BRITISCHES FREIKORPS. IT IS CLEAR THAT SOMETIME BETWEEN MARCH OF 1943 AND

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NOVEMBER OF 1944, WHILE WORKING FOR THE GERMANISCHE LEITSTELLE, HE WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF DEVELOPING THE BRITISCHES FREIKORPS. THERE IS A LETTER IN BDC DATED AUGUST 2, 1944, FROM GOTTLLOB BERGER, HEAD OF THE SS-HAUPTAMT TO HIMMLER, PROPOSING THAT THE TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE BRITISCHES FREIKORPS SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO THE FRONT FOR ACTION, AND THAT ROEPKE, BECAUSE OF HIS PAST INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROGRAM, SHOULD BE MADE THEIR LEADER. A SECOND LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1944 FROM SS-STANDARTENFUHRER (COLONEL) SPARMANN IN AMTSGRUPPE D OF THE SS-HAUPTAMT, REQUESTS AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING OFFICER FOR THE BRITISCHES FREIKORPS, BECAUSE ROEPKE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE SS-FUEHRUNGSHAUPTAMT ON NOVEMBER 15.

7. FROM THIS DATE, ROEPKE STATES THAT HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A COMMANDO UNIT OF AN SS JAGDVERBAENDE, AND THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE ARDENNES COUNTEROFFENSIVE. THIS INNOCUOUS STATEMENT MAY EXPLAIN WHY MR. ROEPKE IS SO RETICENT ABOUT HIS PAST. SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER, 1944, HITLER, WHILE PLANNING THE ARDENNES MOVEMENT WHICH WE CALL THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, SUMMONED OTTO SKORZENY, THE SS COLONEL FAMOUS FOR HIS RESCUE OF MUSSOLINI, AND ASSIGNED HIM TO A SPECIAL OPERATION. GERMAN SOLDIERS WHO SPOKE ENGLISH WOULD BE FITTED OUT WITH CAPTURED AMERICAN UNIFORMS AND ARMS, AND INFILTRATED BEHIND AMERICAN LINES AT THE START OF THE OFFENSIVE. THESE SMALL UNITS WOULD SOW CONFUSION BEHIND THE LINES, COMMIT SABOTAGE, AND PREVENT THE DEMOLITION OF THE BRIDGES ACROSS THE RIVER MEUSE, WHICH WAS THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF THE ATTACK. DESPITE SERIOUS MISGIVINGS- THE ORDER ASKING FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING OFFICERS HAD BEEN CIRCULATED IN CLEAR TO ALL CORPS COMMANDS, AND SKORZENY FELT THAT THE OPERATION WAS COMPROMISED FROM THE BEGINNING- HE RECRUITED A SMALL FORCE OF 2,000 MEN AND DID, IN FACT, COMMENCE OPERATION GREIF ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE. IT ACHEIVED LITTLE, BUT IT DID CREATE GREAT CONFUSION BEHIND AMERICAN LINES AND WAS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR EVEN THE LIMITED ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OFFENSIVE.

8. DEPTOFF SUSPECTS THAT MR. ROEPKE HAD EITHER WORKED FOR SKORZENY, WHO WAS HEAD OF AMT S (SABOTAGE) OF THE SD, OR HAD HAD SOME CONTACT WITH HIM. WHEN THE CALL CAME OUT FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING VOLUNTEERS, MR. ROEPKE MAY HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR OPERATION GREIF, OR BEEN ASSIGNED TO IT BY THE SD. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN HIS TRANSFER FROM THE BRITISCHER FREIKORPS, OF WHICH HE WAS SLATED TO BE COMMANDER. MR. ROEPKE'S YEAR IN AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN 1936 WOULD HAVE MADE HIM AN IDEAL LEADER IN THE OPERATION IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT HE ATTENDED MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, WHICH WAS, AND IS, THE PREMIER AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE TEACHING OF LANGUAGES. DEPTOFF IS WILLING TO BET THAT MR. ROEPKE SPEAKS EXCELLENT, AMERICAN-ACCENTED ENGLISH. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT ROEPKE WAS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. THE SS

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JAGDVERBANDE, WHICH HE ADMITS TO SERVING IN, HAD THE OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SS PANZERBRIGADE 150. IT PARTICIPATED IN THE ARDENNES OFFENSIVE, AND ITS COMMANDER WAS OTTO SKORZENY. THE DISGUISED GERMAN SOLDIERS WERE DIVIDED INTO FOUR-MAN COMMANDOS, WHICH

WERE GIVEN AMERICAN JEEPS AND SENT OVER THE LINES IN THE CONFUSION OF THE FIRST ATTACK. MR. ROEPKE MAY BE AFRAID THAT HIS PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION WILL BECOME PUBLIC. U.S. FORCES CAPTURED 18 OF THESE SOLDIERS WHO TOOK PART IN OPERATION GREIF, AND EXECUTED ALL OF THEM AS SPIES, SINCE THE WEARING OF ENEMY UNIFORMS WHILE ATTACKING IS A VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION. AS A FOOTNOTE, SKORZENY WAS ALSO THE FOUNDER OF THE NOTORIOUS SS ORGANIZATIN ODESSA, WHICH ASSISTED THE ESCAPE OF MANY SS MEN AFTER THE WAR. SKORZENY INCIDENTALLY, WORKED FOR THE U.S. ARMY IN THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT BEFORE HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN 1949. HE ESCAPED.

9. TO SUM UP, GIVEN THE ABOVE, DEPARTMENT CANNOT PROCESS ROEPKE'S CASE TO A CONCLUSION UNLESS HE IS WILLING TO BE FRANK. UP TO NOW HE HAS MANAGED TO TELL AS LITTLE OF THE TRUTH AS POSSIBLE. DEPTOFF CANNOT CLEAR MR. ROEPKE UNLESS HE CAN RELIABLY VERIFY ELEMENTS OF HIS TESTIMONY, AND THAT POSSIBILITY DOES NOT EXIST AT THIS TIME. SHULTZ

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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